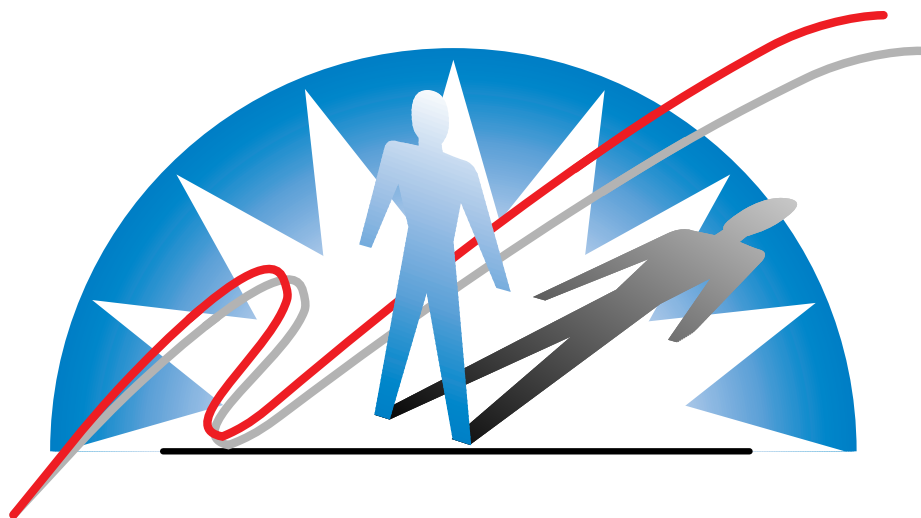


2007

# **Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey**

## **Alternative Schools**



**Montana Office of Public Instruction**

**MONTANA YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY REPORT - 2007**  
**FOR ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**STATEWIDE ANALYSIS OF  
SELECTED BEHAVIOR RISK FACTORS**

**September 2007**

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- the Montana students who participated in the survey.

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# Introduction



## I. INTRODUCTION

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System is an epidemiologic surveillance system that was established by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help monitor the prevalence of behaviors that not only influence youth health, but also put youth at risk for the most significant health and social problems that can occur during adolescence and adulthood. In the United States, 71 percent of all deaths among youth and young adults aged 10-24 years result from four causes: motor-vehicle crashes (31 percent), other unintentional injuries (14 percent), homicides (15 percent), and suicide (11 percent). Substantial morbidity and social problems also result from the approximately 831,000 pregnancies that occur each year among females aged 15-19 years, the estimated 9.1 million cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) that occur each year among persons aged 15 - 24 years, and the estimated 4,842 cases of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) among persons aged 15-24 years that occur annually.

One out of every six cases (one of five in Montana) of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) that is diagnosed in the United States occurs among those who are aged 20 to 29 years old. Since the average incubation period between human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and AIDS diagnosis is ten years, a high proportion of those 20 to 29 year olds diagnosed with AIDS were infected as teenagers. HIV infection is now reported as the fifth leading cause of death among persons aged 15 to 24 years old.

Among adults aged 25 years or older, 61 percent of all deaths in the United States result from cardiovascular diseases (38 percent) and cancer (23 percent). Leading causes of morbidity and mortality among all age groups in the United States are related to the following: behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence; tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use; sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and STDs, including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection; unhealthy dietary behaviors; physical inactivity; and overweight. Behaviors are frequently interrelated and often are established during youth and extend into adulthood. Mortality, morbidity, and social problems that teenagers encounter are largely related to a small number of negative behaviors such as drinking and driving and sexual intercourse at a young age. Tobacco use, excessive consumption of fats, and insufficient physical activity (behaviors formed during adolescence) are known to lead to diseases that are not manifest until adulthood. These behaviors and associated health problems are largely preventable.

In 1988, CDC initiated a process to identify and monitor important health behaviors among youth. The leading causes of mortality, morbidity, and social problems among youth were analyzed and behaviors contributing to these problems were identified and categorized into six risk areas: 1) behaviors that result in unintentional and intentional injuries; 2) tobacco use; 3) alcohol and other drug use; 4) sexual behaviors that result in HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, and unintended pregnancies; 5) physical inactivity; and 6) dietary behaviors.

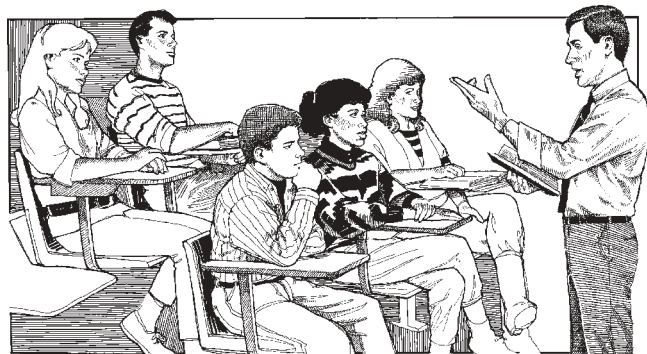
The purpose of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is to assist educators and health professionals in determining the prevalence of the aforementioned health-risk behaviors among youth. This report describes the results of the survey and the methods used to conduct the survey. The results will be used to focus the continuing development of statewide comprehensive health education and to reduce those health behaviors that place Montana youth at risk.

Survey results for each of the risk factors are presented in two parts:

1. an overview of the risk factor as it applies to Montana youth; and
2. highlights of the results of the 2007 YRBS for Montana alternative school students in bullet format.

Appendix A lists all survey questions and corresponding frequency distributions, while Appendix B contains graphs associated with the highlights presented in the text. Appendix C also contains charts of specific questions asked in the 2007 YRBS.

# Survey Methods





## II. SURVEY METHODS

### DESCRIPTION OF YRBS

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was developed cooperatively by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 19 other federal agencies, and state and local departments of education to measure the extent to which adolescents engage in health risk behaviors. The 2007 survey instrument consisted of 90 questions which assessed the six priority health risk behaviors which result in the greatest amount of morbidity, mortality, and social problems among youth. These behaviors include behaviors that result in unintentional injuries and violence; tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use; sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and STDs, including HIV infection; physical inactivity; and unhealthy dietary behaviors.

### SAMPLE SELECTION PROCESS

All alternative high schools in Montana were eligible to be selected for inclusion in the sample. Twelve schools elected to participate in the volunteer sample and an estimated 80 percent of the students in these schools volunteered to participate in the survey. A total of 606 students in alternative schools participated in the 2007 Montana YRBS. The results presented in this report are based on the behavior and opinion of the participants in the sample; because the survey was not random it is not possible to use the results of the survey to draw conclusions about health-risk behaviors of all students in alternative schools in Montana.

Superintendents of school districts were contacted during November 2006 to obtain approval to approach principals of randomly selected schools about the survey. Sufficient time was allowed to gain school board and/or parent approval, and to answer any questions about the survey. Each participating school submitted a list of second-period classes and a random set of these classes was selected and surveyed. In smaller schools, a census of students was attempted. Survey coordinators for each school were assigned by school administrators and packets of information, including instructions, survey booklets, and answer sheets, were mailed to each school during February 2007. Surveys were administered during second-period classes and returned to the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) for processing within one week of survey administration.

Teachers administering the survey to students were provided with detailed written instructions to ensure uniform survey administration across sites. To encourage accurate responses to sensitive questions, a strict protocol was implemented to **protect the privacy and confidentiality of all participating students**. Participation in the survey was voluntary. Students could decline to participate, turn in blank or incomplete survey forms, or stop completing the survey at any time. The protocols used in the YRBS ensure that participating schools are not violating any federal laws protecting students' rights and

privacy, including the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

## **SURVEY VALIDITY AND LIMITATIONS**

The 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey for Montana students in alternative schools was not a random survey. It would not be valid to generalize the findings from this survey to all students in alternative schools in Montana. It is only valid to attribute the results of this survey to the 606 students who reported their behaviors in response to the items in the questionnaire. In addition, respondents in self-reported surveys may have a tendency to under-report behaviors that are socially undesirable, unhealthy, or illegal (alcohol consumption, drug use, seat belt nonusage, etc.) and overreport behaviors which are socially desirable (amount of exercise, etc.).

# Survey Results



### **III. SURVEY RESULTS**

#### **UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES AND VIOLENCE**

##### **Overview**

The teen death rate reflects deaths among 15 to 19 year olds from all causes. It is worth noting that nationally, deaths from accidents, homicides, and suicides accounted for 76 percent of all deaths in this age group in 2004.<sup>1</sup>

- Among states, Montana ranks second highest in the nation with a teen death rate of 104 deaths per 100,000 teens, compared to 66 per 100,000 nationally.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2005, among 15 to 19 year olds in Montana, there were 60 deaths; 29 (48 percent) were attributed to accidents. Twenty, or 68 percent, of the accidental deaths were due to motor vehicle crashes.<sup>2</sup>
- Suicide was the second leading cause of death among Montana youth aged 15 to 19 years old in 2005. Eighteen (30 percent) of the 60 deaths were the result of suicide.<sup>2</sup>

Obviously, controlling or lowering the death rate due to these two causes, which account for over three-fourths of all deaths among Montana youth, would not only preserve Montana's most important resource, but also increase the social and economic well-being of the state and its population.

Twenty questions were asked of participants in the survey regarding intentional and unintentional injuries (see Appendix A). Intentional and unintentional injury questions were related to personal safety, violence-related behaviors, and sad feelings and attempted suicide. Questions related to intentional and unintentional injuries were developed for students in schools throughout the United States and, consequently, some of the questions may not relate well to youth in Montana. In particular, many Montana students may carry firearms for hunting or predator control and report that they are carrying a weapon -- even onto school property. The purpose for carrying these weapons may not have any relationship to self-protection or aggressive behavior as the survey was attempting to measure. However, this situation should not lessen the importance of firearm safety. Each year, Montana youth place themselves at risk for accidental injury or death when carrying firearms. The issue addressed in this survey is the access to firearms by Montana youth.

##### **Highlights of the survey related to unintentional injuries and violence**

- In 2007, 31 percent of all Montana students in alternative schools reported "Never or Rarely" wearing seat belts when riding in a car driven by someone else. Approximately 21 percent of Montana students in alternative schools wear seat belts all the time. Female students are more apt to wear seat belts than male students (Figure 1 and Figure 2, Appendix B).

- Approximately 40 percent of the respondents, within the 30 days prior to the survey, rode in a car driven by someone who had been drinking. Within 30 days prior to the survey, about one in five (21 percent) of the survey participants had driven a car when they had been drinking alcohol (Figure 1, Appendix B).
- In the past 12 months, 26 percent of the survey participants had seriously considered attempting suicide and 76 percent of those considering suicide had actually made a plan to attempt suicide. Sixteen percent of the students taking the survey reported that they had actually attempted suicide (Figure 1, Appendix B).
- During the past 12 months, 50 percent of survey respondents reported being in a physical fight. Approximately 35 percent had been in two or more fights within the past 12 months (Figure 1, Appendix B).
- In 2007, 18 percent of male and 25 percent of female Montana students in alternative schools reported "Always" wearing seat belts (Figure 2, Appendix B).
- Forty percent of the Montana students in alternative schools reported that, within the 30 days prior to the survey, they had ridden in a car driven by someone who had been drinking (Figure 3, Appendix B).
- Of those Montana students in alternative schools riding in a car driven by someone who had been drinking (40 percent), approximately one in six (17 percent) indicated that, within the 30 days prior to the survey, they had ridden six or more times in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking (Figure 3, Appendix B).
- Twenty-one percent of Montana students in alternative schools reported that, within the 30 days prior to the survey, they had driven a car after drinking alcohol (Figure 4, Appendix B).
- Of those students reporting that they had been drinking and driving (21 percent), approximately one in seven (15 percent) reported drinking and driving six or more times in the 30 days prior to the survey (Figure 4, Appendix B).
- Male Montana students in alternative schools were more likely to have been involved in a physical fight than females (Figure 5, Appendix B).
- In the past year, 10 percent of Montana students in alternative schools reported having been injured in a physical fight (Figure 5, Appendix B).
- Female Montana students in alternative schools were more likely to consider and attempt suicide than males (Figure 6, Appendix B).
- In 2007, 20 percent of survey respondents reported that their boyfriend or girlfriend had hit, slapped, or physically hurt them on purpose. Eighteen percent had been forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.

## **TOBACCO USE**

### **Overview**

Tobacco use, including cigarette smoking, cigar smoking, and smokeless tobacco use, is the single leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Each year smoking causes approximately 435,000 premature deaths and over 5 million years of potential life lost. Every day approximately 4,000 American youth aged 12-17 try their first cigarette.<sup>4</sup>

- Cigarette smoking causes heart disease, stroke, chronic lung disease, and cancers of the lung, mouth, pharynx, esophagus and bladder.<sup>4</sup>
- Use of smokeless tobacco causes cancers of the mouth, pharynx and esophagus; gum recession, and an increased risk for heart disease and stroke.<sup>4</sup>
- Smoking cigars increases the risk of oral, laryngeal, esophageal and lung cancers.<sup>4</sup>

The younger people begin smoking cigarettes, the more likely they are to become strongly addicted to nicotine. Young people who try to quit suffer the same nicotine withdrawal symptoms as adults who try to quit.

- In Montana, 19 percent of all adults currently smoke cigarettes.<sup>3</sup>
- Approximately one out of every five deaths in Montana can be attributed to tobacco use.<sup>3</sup>
- On an average day, nearly four Montanans die prematurely from smoking related diseases. That's more than 1,400 deaths annually.<sup>3</sup>
- The estimated annual cost of direct medical expenses related to smoking in Montana in 2006 was \$277 million.<sup>4</sup>
- Eighty percent of people who use tobacco start smoking or using smokeless tobacco before age 18, thus making nicotine addiction a disease that begins in childhood.<sup>4</sup>

Eleven questions were asked of Montana students regarding the use of tobacco (Appendix A). The questions related to frequency and use of both cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. In addition, several questions were asked about the use of tobacco products on school property.

### **Highlights of the survey related to tobacco use**

- Slightly over three-fourths (81 percent) of Montana students in alternative schools have tried smoking. Forty-nine percent smoked cigarettes on one or more days in the month prior to taking the survey (Figure 7, Appendix B).

- Thirty-nine percent of Montana students in alternative schools reported that they smoked two or more cigarettes on the days they smoked (Figure 7, Appendix B).
- In 2007, 17 percent of Montana students in alternative schools reported using chewing tobacco. This figure was four percentage points less than in 2005 (Figure 7, Appendix B).
- Forty-nine percent of Montana students in alternative schools reported that they are current smokers, i.e., that they have smoked in the past 30 days. The rate in 2007 was 21 percentage points lower than in 2005 (Figure 8, Appendix B).
- During the past 12 months, 65 percent of Montana students in alternative schools who smoked indicated that they had tried to quit smoking cigarettes.
- Twenty-five percent of male Montana students in alternative schools reported having used chewing tobacco or snuff during the 30 days prior to the survey as compared to 7 percent of the females. In 2007 the number of male students using chewing tobacco decreased by nine percentage points from the 2005 rate (Figure 8, Appendix B).

## **ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE**

### **Overview**

Excessive alcohol consumption contributes to cirrhosis of the liver, motor vehicle and other accidents, suicides, homicides, and some types of cancer. Traffic accidents involving drinking historically have been and continue to be a major problem in Montana. Alcohol related crashes tend to result in more severe injuries than do crashes with no alcohol involvement.

- Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes kill someone in the United States every 31 minutes and non-fatally injure someone every two minutes.<sup>5</sup>
- Montana has the highest alcohol-related fatality rate in the nation.<sup>5</sup>
- In 2006, Montana reported 22,186 motor vehicle crashes; 226 were fatal crashes resulting in 263 fatalities. Of these fatalities, 126 (or 48 percent) were alcohol-related deaths; 108 (or 41 percent) involved blood alcohol concentrations (BAC) of 0.08 or higher.<sup>5</sup>
- In 2006, 16 percent of adult Montanans reported binge drinking (males having five or more drinks on one occasion, females having four or more drinks on one occasion in the past 30 days).<sup>6</sup> In comparison, 50 percent of Montana students in alternative schools have reported binge drinking in the past 30 days.

Nineteen questions were asked of Montana students regarding their use of alcohol and drugs (Appendix A). The questions related to frequency of use, age of first use, and types and forms of drugs used.

### **Highlights of the survey related to alcohol and other drug use**

- Eighty-nine percent of Montana students in alternative schools had at least one drink of alcohol during their lifetimes. Of those students who have had a drink of alcohol in their lifetimes, 16 percent were less than nine years old when they had their first drink (Appendix A and Figure 9, Appendix B).
- Forty-six percent of Montana students in alternative schools had used marijuana one or more times during the 30 days prior to the survey. In 2007, Montana students in alternative schools reported the median age of first use of marijuana was 13 to 14 years old, which was similar to the 2005 YRBS figure (Appendix A and Figure 9, Appendix B).
- Twenty-three percent of Montana students in alternative schools reported using methamphetamines in their lifetime (Figure 9, Appendix B).
- Thirty-three percent of Montana students in alternative schools reported using cocaine at least once during their lifetime (Figure 10, Appendix B).
- Fifty percent of Montana students in alternative schools reported binge drinking, that is five or more drinks in a row at least once during the past 30 days (Figure 10, Appendix B).
- Seventy-three percent of Montana students in alternative schools reported smoking marijuana at least once in their lifetimes. Male students were slightly more likely to have used marijuana in their lifetimes than female students (Figure 10, Appendix B).

## **SEXUAL BEHAVIORS**

### **Overview**

Despite improvements, the United States still has some of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy and childbearing in the industrialized world. Each year, almost 750,000 teenage women aged 15–19 become pregnant with 82 percent of these pregnancies being unintended. Teens in the United States also have higher rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) than do teens in other industrialized countries.<sup>7</sup>

- Nationally, 46.8 percent of students in alternative schools have had sexual intercourse during their life; a *decline* in sexual activity from 1991 when 54 percent of students in alternative schools had had sexual intercourse. Montana trends for sexual activity have also declined from a high of 51 percent of students in high schools having had sexual intercourse in 1991 to 45.7 percent in 2007.



- In addition, the teen birthrate has declined steadily since 1991. Nationally, the 2004 rate of 41.1 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19 is a record low and is 33 percent lower than the 1991 rate of 61.8. Montana teen birth rates have decreased from 46.8 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19 in 1991 to 35.8 births per 1,000 females in 2004.<sup>8</sup>

Seven questions were asked of Montana students regarding their sexual behaviors (Appendix A). Questions were related to frequency, numbers of partners, abstinence, alcohol use and contraception.

### **Highlights of the survey related to sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancies and STDs**

- Eighteen percent of Montana students in alternative schools reported not having had sexual intercourse. This represents a slightly higher rate than reported in 2005 and 2003 (Figure 11, Appendix B).
- Eighty-nine percent of Montana students in alternative schools have had HIV/AIDS education (Figure 11, Appendix B).
- Forty-five percent of Montana students in alternative schools have had sexual intercourse with four or more people during their life (Figure 11, Appendix B).
- Fifty-one percent of those Montana students in alternative schools who have had sex reported wearing a condom during their last sexual intercourse. Eighteen percent of those Montana students in alternative schools that have had sex did not use any method to prevent pregnancy during the last time they had sexual intercourse (Figure 13, Appendix B).
- Eighty-two percent of Montana students in alternative schools reported having had sexual intercourse in their lifetime. Fifty-six percent of the survey respondents reported that they had sexual intercourse within the three-month period prior to the survey.
- Female and male Montana students in alternative schools were equally as likely to have had sexual intercourse (Figure 12, Appendix B).
- Eighty-one percent of Montana students in alternative schools who have had sexual intercourse reported having had sex with multiple (two or more) partners (Figure 13, Appendix B).
- Forty-four percent of Montana students in alternative schools who have had sexual intercourse reported using alcohol or drugs the last time they had sex. Female students were less likely to have used alcohol or drugs before sexual intercourse (Figure 13, Appendix B).

- Forty-nine percent of Montana students in alternative schools who have had sexual intercourse reported not using a condom the last time they had sex (Figure 13, Appendix B).

## **PHYSICAL INACTIVITY**

### **Overview**

Regular physical activity helps build and maintain healthy bones and muscles; helps reduce the risk of developing obesity and chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease; and reduces feelings of depression and anxiety and promotes psychological well-being.<sup>9</sup> Inadequate physical activity behaviors established during youth may extend into adulthood and increase risk for coronary heart disease, hypertension, non-insulin dependent diabetes, osteoporosis, obesity, and mental health problems.

- 2005 YRBS results show that 69 percent of Montana high school youth did not meet currently recommended levels of physical activity.
- In addition, 42 percent of Montana high school youth did not attend physical education class.
- One in five, or 19.4 percent, of adult Montanans report not participating in any physical activities during the past month.<sup>6</sup>

Twelve questions were asked of Montana students regarding their body weight and physical activity (Appendix A). The questions related to types of physical activity as well as frequency of activity.

### **Highlights of the survey related to physical inactivity**

- Forty-one percent of Montana students in alternative schools played on one or more sports teams during the past 12 months. Forty-two percent of Montana students in alternative schools attended physical education classes daily (Figure 14, Appendix B).
- Forty percent of Montana students in alternative schools reported watching TV two or more hours per day (Figure 14, Appendix B).
- Sixty-three percent of Montana students in alternative schools were physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes on three or more of the seven days prior to taking the survey (Figure 14, Appendix B).

## **DIETARY BEHAVIORS**

### **Overview**

The prevalence of overweight among United States children aged 6 to 11 more than doubled in the past 20 years, going from 7 percent in 1980 to 18.8 percent in 2004. The rate among adolescents aged 12 to 19 more than tripled, increasing from 5 percent to 17.1 percent. Overweight is the result of caloric imbalance (too few calories expended for the amount of calories consumed) and is mediated by genetics and health. Overweight young people are more likely than children of normal weight to become overweight or obese adults, and therefore more at risk for associated adult health problems, including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stroke, several types of cancer, and osteoarthritis. One-third of the 559,650 cancer deaths expected to occur in 2007 will be related to overweight or obesity, physical inactivity, and nutrition and thus could be prevented.<sup>9</sup>

- Body Mass Index (BMI) for adult Montanans indicates that 38.1 percent of adult Montanans are overweight (BMI between 25.0 and 29.9) and 21.2 percent are obese (BMI of 30 or more).<sup>6</sup>
- Twenty percent (40,395) of Montana youth live in poverty and thus are at risk for hunger. Montana ranks high (36 out of the 50 states) for the percent of children living in poverty.<sup>6</sup>

Eight questions were asked of Montana students regarding dietary excesses and imbalances (Appendix A). The questions related to the types of food youth were eating as well as the frequency.

### **Highlights of the survey related to dietary behaviors**

- Over one-half (55 percent) of Montana students in alternative schools think they are "about the right weight." More boys tend to think they are at about the right weight than girls (Figure 15, Appendix B).
- Sixty percent of female Montana students in alternative schools are trying to lose weight. Only 34 percent of the boys reported that they are trying to lose weight (Figure 15, Appendix B).
- Twenty percent of Montana students in alternative schools reported eating fruit at least once on a daily basis. Nine percent ate a green salad daily (Figure 15, Appendix B).
- Twenty-four percent of Montana students in alternative schools reported drinking three or more glasses of milk per day in the week prior to the survey (Figure 15, Appendix B).

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## Resources

- <sup>1</sup> 2007 Kids Count Data Book.
- <sup>2</sup> Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Vital Statistics, 2005.
- <sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Sustaining State Programs for Tobacco Control: Data Highlights 2006*.
- <sup>4</sup> Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, 2007.
- <sup>5</sup> United States Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2006.
- <sup>6</sup> CDC, National Center for Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2006.
- <sup>7</sup> Child Trends, 2006.
- <sup>8</sup> CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics Reports, 2006.
- <sup>9</sup> CDC, National Center for Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Healthy Youth, 2006.
- <sup>10</sup> American Cancer Society, Cancer Facts and Figures, 2007.

# Conclusions



## IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Results of the 2007 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey for alternative school students indicate that although progress has been made over the past several years in decreasing risk from undesirable behaviors, Montana health, education, and social professionals need to continue to focus on those primary risk behaviors that cause the greatest amount of mortality, morbidity, and social problems among Montana youth. These primary risk behaviors are initiated during adolescence, yet the consequences of unhealthy behaviors are exhibited from adolescence through adulthood. For example, youth may start smoking in their early teens, but complications such as emphysema do not appear until adulthood.

Important risk behaviors where improvement will be needed in order for Montana to meet current health objectives are:

- **Seat belt usage** – only 21 percent of Montana alternative school students reported wearing seat belts *all* of the time when riding in a car driven by someone else. This level of usage is a slight decrease from the 2005 level and it is far short of the current Healthy People 2010 objective for seat belt use of 92 percent of all occupants wearing seat belts *all* of the time.
- **Bicycle helmet usage** – only 2 percent of bicyclists reported using helmets *all* of the time. The current Healthy People 2010 objective is for 79 percent of bicyclists to use helmets.
- **Injurious suicide attempts** – 29 percent of suicide attempts reported by Montana alternative school students resulted in an injury requiring medical attention. While 2007 YRBS data showed a decrease in the number of alternative school students who actually attempted suicide (21 to 16 percent), Montana's teen suicide rate ranks third highest in the nation. The current Healthy People 2010 objective is to reduce the incidence of suicide attempts to 1 percent for adolescents aged 14-17.
- **Smokeless tobacco use** – Montana alternative school students are continuing to use smokeless tobacco products at rates that are higher than national trends. In 2007, 25 percent of Montana male and 7 percent of female Montana alternative school students used snuff or chewing tobacco in the 30 days prior to the survey. The current rate of use among males and females is down slightly from 2005 levels. The current Healthy People 2010 objective is to reduce usage to less than one percent by 2010.
- **Alcohol usage** – the 2007 YRBS indicates that approximately 60 percent of Montana alternative school students had used alcohol in the month prior to the survey. The current Healthy People 2010 objective is to reduce alcohol intake to 11 percent of youth aged 12-17 and to 29 percent of youth aged 18-20.

- **Marijuana usage** – the 2007 YRBS indicates that 46 percent of Montana alternative school students had used marijuana during the 30 days prior to the survey. The current Healthy People 2010 objective is to reduce the use of marijuana in the past month to less than 1 percent for the age group that includes Montana alternative school students.
- **Sexual behavior** – the 2007 YRBS indicates that 82 percent of Montana alternative school students had abstained from sexual intercourse or used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse. The current Healthy People 2010 objective is to increase responsible adolescent sexual behavior to 95 percent of youth.

There is still much to do to achieve the national health objectives for the reported health-risk behaviors of Montana alternative school students. Although reported behaviors related to the risk behaviors of driving while drinking, riding with a drinking driver, suicide attempts, fighting, smoking, alcohol and other drug use, sexual behaviors, and physical activity have shown some improvement since 1999, a long-term, comprehensive approach to improving health and reducing risks is needed to provide Montana alternative school students with healthier lives further removed from the illness, death and social problems linked to preventable health risks.

There are several areas where Montana appears to be meeting or exceeding national objectives:

- Montana schools continue to provide HIV/AIDS education to its young people. About 89 percent of Montana alternative school students indicated they have received education related to AIDS/HIV infection.
- About two-thirds (63 percent) of Montana alternative school students regularly perform physical activities for 60 minutes or more at least three days per week. The current national objective is to maintain the rate at 40 percent.

In order for Montana to help develop youth who will become healthy, responsible adults and to meet the current health objectives, the following recommendations are set forth:

1. Ensure that comprehensive health education and programs are implemented at adequate levels to continue to educate Montana alternative school students. Comprehensive school health programs and policies that support what is taught in the Health Enhancement classroom encourage long-term healthy lifestyles. Going beyond the classroom (e.g., drug-free and tobacco-free schools) involves the community and other agencies in the health of its young people. There is no greater tool for changing behavior patterns than effective, skills-based, age-appropriate health education. If Montana alternative school students are to change risk behaviors, they will need to have full understanding of the positive aspects of healthy behaviors, as well as the negative consequences of unhealthy behaviors.

Other comprehensive recommendations include:

- Communities should be encouraged to provide for developmentally appropriate preschool programs that help prepare children for school, thereby improving the prospects with regard to school performance, problem behaviors and physical health.
  - Montana students should have daily access to and participation in health enhancement classes.
  - Montana schools should be encouraged to provide programs for parents such as parenting skills and encourage parents to talk to their children regarding health issues.
  - Montana schools should consider programs that provide students who are in need of social and health services either the services or proper referrals to services (i.e., "full-service schools" or "school-linked services").
  - Montana schools should have policies and programs in place that encourage school completion for all students and reduce the incidence of school dropouts.
  - Montana schools should provide for all students guidance counselors who are properly prepared to deal with student issues.
2. Comprehensive health education and life management skills should be taught in all schools at appropriate age and developmental levels.
  3. The effectiveness of comprehensive health education programs needs to be evaluated and, if necessary, modified in order to meet current health education objectives.
  4. Improve the behavior patterns of Montana alternative school students in the following areas:
    - increasing seat belt and helmet use,
    - reducing alcohol use,
    - reducing marijuana use,
    - reducing use of tobacco products, especially smokeless tobacco, by young males and females, and
    - increasing the number of youth who abstain from sexual intercourse, delaying the age of first sexual intercourse, increasing the number of sexually active youth who choose to reestablish abstinence from sexual intercourse, recognizing that there are



youth who are sexually active, and increasing the use of condoms among sexually active youth.

5. Continue to address significant health-risk behaviors through prevention efforts that include the following concepts:

- Unintentional Injuries and Violence

Montana students should have access to and participate in accident prevention education, suicide prevention education and violence prevention education programs such as peer mediation and/or conflict resolution.

Montana schools should provide policies for staff and students that encourage safe, disciplined and drug-free environments.

- Tobacco Use

Montana students should have access to and participate in tobacco education and prevention programs, including smokeless tobacco, at all grade levels.

Montana schools should be tobacco-free.

- Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Montana students should have access to and participate in alcohol education and prevention programs at all grade levels.

Montana students should have access to and participate in bicycle/pedestrian safety and driver education programs at appropriate levels.

- Sexuality

Montana students should have access to and participate in age-appropriate human sexuality education as part of a comprehensive school health program or as part of a family or faith-based structured program in line with family and community values.

- Physical Inactivity

Montana students should engage in vigorous physical activity that promotes the development and maintenance of cardiorespiratory fitness three or more days per week for 20 or more minutes per occasion.

- Nutrition

Montana students should have access to lunch and breakfast services in the home or at school that are consistent with the nutritional principles in the "Dietary Guidelines for Americans."

Nutrition education should be part of a comprehensive school health program at all grades. Ongoing education on safe weight management practices and acceptance of body size differences in Montana alternative school students should be a part of nutrition education.

6. Continue collaborative efforts involving state and local agencies (both public and private) to ensure that health behavior risks of Montana alternative school students are addressed in a coordinated manner. Meeting the health and safety needs of adolescents requires coordinated efforts involving schools, communities, health services and parents.
7. Continue the support of comprehensive health education and programs by school boards, school administrators, teachers, health service agencies, legislators, and parents.
8. Continue to monitor Montana alternative school students' behavior patterns using the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) instrument developed through the U.S. Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**APPENDIX A**  
**FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTIONS**

# 2007 MONTANA YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

## ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL STUDENTS

### FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION

The following frequency distributions are based upon surveys of 606 alternative school students in Montana during February of 2007. Frequency distributions may not total 606 due to non-response and percents may not total 100 percent due to rounding.

#### Q-1 How old are you?

	<u>Percent</u>
A. 15 years old or younger	16.5%
B. 16 or 17 years old	64.5%
C. 18 years old or older	19.0%

#### Q-2 What is your sex?

	<u>Percent</u>
A. Female	42.7%
B. Male	57.3%

#### Q-3 In what grade are you?

	<u>Percent</u>
A. 9th Grade	15.3%
B. 10th Grade	25.4%
C. 11th Grade	30.2%
D. 12th Grade	27.4%
E. Other	1.7%

#### Q-4 Are you Hispanic or Latino?

	<u>Percent</u>
A. Yes	8.8%
B. No	91.2%

#### Q-5 What is your race?

	<u>Percent</u>
A. American Indian/Alaska Native	16.7%
B. Asian	1.5%
C. Black/African American	2.5%
D. Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1.3%
E. White	81.0%

**Q-6 How tall are you without your shoes on?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. Less than 4 ft	0.0%
B. 4 ft to 4 ft, 6 in	0.0%
C. 4 ft, 7 in to 5 ft	2.6%
D. 5 ft, 1 in to 5 ft, 6 in	37.3%
E. Over 5 ft, 6 in	60.1%

**Q-7 How much do you weigh without your shoes on?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. Less than 90 lbs	0.3%
B. 90-99 lbs	0.5%
C. 100-109 lbs	3.5%
D. 110-119 lbs	9.1%
E. 120-129 lbs	14.0%
F. 133-139 lbs	13.3%
G. 140 lbs +	59.3%

**The next 4 questions ask about safety.**

**Q-8 When you rode a bicycle during the past 12 months, how often did you wear a helmet?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I did not ride a bicycle during the past 12 months	37.0%
B. Never wore a helmet	55.0%
C. Rarely wore a helmet	4.6%
D. Sometimes wore a helmet	1.8%
E. Most of the time wore a helmet	0.5%
F. Always wore a helmet	1.2%

**Q-9 How often do you wear a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. Never	11.1%
B. Rarely	19.5%
C. Sometimes	25.3%
D. Most of the time	22.8%
E. Always	21.3%

**Q-10 During the past 30 days, how many times did you ride in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 times	59.8%
B. 1 time	11.9%
C. 2 or 3 times	16.9%
D. 4 or 5 times	4.6%
E. 6 or more times	6.8%

**Q-11 During the past 30 days, how many times did you drive a car or other vehicle when you had been drinking alcohol?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 times	79.1%
B. 1 time	9.2%
C. 2 or 3 times	6.2%
D. 4 or 5 times	2.3%
E. 6 or more times	3.2%

**The next 11 questions ask about violence-related behaviors.**

**Q-12 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 days	74.8%
B. 1 day	3.5%
C. 2 or 3 days	5.1%
D. 4 or 5 days	2.5%
E. 6 or more days	14.1%

**Q-13 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a gun?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 days	89.4%
B. 1 day	3.5%
C. 2 or 3 days	3.8%
D. 4 or 5 days	0.3%
E. 6 or more days	3.0%

**Q-14 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 days	86.2%
B. 1 day	2.8%
C. 2 or 3 days	3.3%
D. 4 or 5 days	0.8%
E. 6 or more days	6.9%

**Q-15 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you not go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to or from school?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 days	93.4%
B. 1 day	4.1%
C. 2 or 3 days	1.3%
D. 4 or 5 days	0.5%
E. 6 or more days	0.7%

**Q-16 During the past 12 months, how many times has someone threatened or injured you with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 times	90.7%
B. 1 time	3.5%
C. 2 or 3 times	3.1%
D. 4 or 5 times	0.8%
E. 6 or 7 times	0.3%
F. 8 or 9 times	0.5%
G. 10 or 11 times	0.0%
H. 12 or more times	1.0%

**Q-17 During the past 12 months, how many times has someone stolen or deliberately damaged your property such as your car, clothing, or books on school property?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 times	76.5%
B. 1 time	10.4%
C. 2 or 3 times	10.6%
D. 4 or 5 times	1.3%
E. 6 or 7 times	0.5%
F. 8 or 9 times	0.0%
G. 10 or 11 times	0.0%
H. 12 or more times	0.7%

**Q-18 During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 times	50.3%
B. 1 time	14.8%
C. 2 or 3 times	17.5%
D. 4 or 5 times	6.8%
E. 6 or 7 times	4.0%
F. 8 or 9 times	1.5%
G. 10 or 11 times	1.0%
H. 12 or more times	4.0%

**Q-19 During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight in which you were injured and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 times	90.0%
B. 1 time	7.3%
C. 2 or 3 times	1.2%
D. 4 or 5 times	1.2%
E. 6 or more times	0.3%

**Q-20 During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight on school property?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 times	80.2%
B. 1 time	10.0%
C. 2 or 3 times	5.6%
D. 4 or 5 times	2.3%
E. 6 or 7 times	1.0%
F. 8 or 9 times	0.2%
G. 10 or 11 times	0.0%
H. 12 or more times	0.7%

**Q-21 During the past 12 months, did your boyfriend or girlfriend ever hit, slap, or physically hurt you on purpose?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. Yes	20.2%
B. No	79.8%

**Q-22 Have you ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. Yes	18.1%
B. No	81.9%

The next 5 questions ask about sad feelings and attempted suicide. Sometimes people feel so depressed about the future that they may consider attempting suicide, that is, taking some action to end their own life.

**Q-23 During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. Yes	39.2%
B. No	60.8%

**Q-24 During the past 12 months, did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. Yes	26.2%
B. No	73.8%

**Q-25 During the past 12 months, did you make a plan about how you would attempt suicide?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. Yes	20.2%
B. No	79.8%



**Q-26 During the past 12 months, how many times did you actually attempt suicide?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 times	84.0%
B. 1 time	8.8%
C. 2 or 3 times	4.7%
D. 4 or 5 times	1.3%
E. 6 or more times	1.2%

**Q-27 If you attempted suicide during the past 12 months, did any attempt result in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I did not attempt suicide during the past 12 months	80.2%
B. Yes	5.8%
C. No	14.0%

**The next 11 questions ask about tobacco use.**

**Q-28 Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. Yes	81.2%
B. No	18.8%

**Q-29 How old were you when you smoked a whole cigarette for the first time?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I have never smoked a whole cigarette	25.0%
B. 8 years old or younger	13.9%
C. 9 or 10 years old	13.9%
D. 11 or 12 years old	12.4%
E. 13 or 14 years old	18.2%
F. 15 or 16 years old	14.0%
G. 17 years old or older	2.7%

**Q-30 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 days	51.3%
B. 1 or 2 days	5.1%
C. 3 to 5 days	4.2%
D. 6 to 9 days	2.3%
E. 10 to 19 days	3.7%
F. 20 to 29 days	7.6%
G. All 30 days	25.7%

**Q-31 During the past 30 days, on the days you smoked, how many cigarettes did you smoke per day?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I did not smoke cigarettes during the past 30 days	50.7%
B. Less than 1 cigarette per day	6.5%
C. 1 cigarette per day	4.2%
D. 2 to 5 cigarettes per day	17.4%
E. 6 to 10 cigarettes per day	13.7%
F. 11 to 20 cigarettes per day	6.2%
G. More than 20 cigarettes per day	1.3%

**Q-32 During the past 30 days, how did you usually get your own cigarettes? (Select only one response.)**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I did not smoke cigarettes during the past 30 days	51.7%
B. I bought them in a store such as a convenience store, supermarket, discount store, or gas station	14.8%
C. I bought them from a vending machine	0.8%
D. I gave someone else money to buy them for me	16.4%
E. I borrowed (or bummed) them from someone else	8.6%
F. A person 18 years old or older gave them to me	2.8%
G. I took them from a store or family member	0.3%
H. I got them some other way	4.5%

**Q-33 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes on school property?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 days	79.1%
B. 1 or 2 days	7.4%
C. 3 to 5 days	2.3%
D. 6 to 9 days	2.8%
E. 10 to 19 days	1.8%
F. 20 to 29 days	2.2%
G. All 30 days	4.3%

**Q-34 Have you ever smoked cigarettes daily, that is, at least one cigarette every day for 30 days?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. Yes	53.2%
B. No	46.8%

**Q-35 During the past 12 months, did you ever try to quit smoking cigarettes?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I did not smoke during the past 12 months	42.0%
B. Yes	37.9%
C. No	20.1%

**Q-36 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip, such as Redman, Levi Garrett, Beechnut, Skoal, Skoal Bandits, or Copenhagen?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 days	82.8%
B. 1 or 2 days	5.7%
C. 3 to 5 days	3.2%
D. 6 to 9 days	1.2%
E. 10 to 19 days	1.3%
F. 20 to 29 days	1.0%
G. All 30 days	4.8%

**Q-37 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on school property?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 days	88.3%
B. 1 or 2 days	3.3%
C. 3 to 5 days	1.5%
D. 6 to 9 days	1.3%
E. 10 to 19 days	1.2%
F. 20 to 29 days	0.8%
G. All 30 days	3.5%

**Q-38 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 days	76.0%
B. 1 or 2 days	13.1%
C. 3 to 5 days	5.0%
D. 6 to 9 days	2.8%
E. 10 to 19 days	1.3%
F. 20 to 29 days	0.7%
G. All 30 days	1.2%

**The next 5 questions ask about drinking alcohol. This includes drinking beer, wine, wine coolers, and liquor such as rum, gin, vodka, or whiskey. For these questions, drinking alcohol does not include drinking a few sips of wine for religious purposes.**

**Q-39 During your life, on how many days have you had at least one drink of alcohol?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 days	11.2%
B. 1 or 2 days	9.0%
C. 3 to 9 days	9.5%
D. 10 to 19 days	8.7%
E. 20 to 39 days	11.7%
F. 40 to 99 days	14.5%
G. 100 or more days	35.5%

**Q-40 How old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol other than a few sips?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I have never had a drink of alcohol other than a few sips	12.2%
B. 8 years old or younger	14.4%
C. 9 or 10 years old	12.5%
D. 11 or 12 years old	17.7%
E. 13 or 14 years old	25.6%
F. 15 or 16 years old	15.7%
G. 17 years old or older	1.8%

**Q-41 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 days	39.6%
B. 1 or 2 days	18.6%
C. 3 to 5 days	12.8%
D. 6 to 9 days	14.0%
E. 10 to 19 days	10.1%
F. 20 to 29 days	3.8%
G. All 30 days	1.0%

**Q-42 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row, that is, within a couple of hours?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 days	49.8%
B. 1 day	10.2%
C. 2 days	10.5%
D. 3 to 5 days	11.2%
E. 6 to 9 days	9.2%
F. 10 to 19 days	6.7%
G. 20 or more days	2.3%

**Q-43 During the past 30 days, how did you usually get the alcohol you drank?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I did not drink alcohol during the past 30 days	39.1%
B. I bought it in a store such as a liquor store, convenience	3.0%
C. I bought it at a restaurant, bar or club	1.0%
D. I bought it at a public event such as a concert or sporting event	0.5%
E. I gave someone else money to buy it for me	28.5%
F. Someone gave it to me	16.9%
G. I took it from a store or family member	1.8%
H. I got it some other way	9.1%

**Q-44 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol on school property?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 days	90.9%
B. 1 or 2 days	6.5%
C. 3 to 5 days	1.2%
D. 6 to 9 days	0.3%
E. 10 to 19 days	0.2%
F. 20 to 29 days	0.2%
G. All 30 days	0.8%

**Q-45 During your life, how many times have you used marijuana?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 times	27.5%
B. 1 or 2 times	5.0%
C. 3 to 9 times	4.7%
D. 10 to 19 times	5.9%
E. 20 to 39 times	8.0%
F. 40 to 99 times	5.9%
G. 100 or more times	43.0%

**Q-46 How old were you when you tried marijuana for the first time?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I have never tried marijuana	26.8%
B. 8 years old or younger	9.8%
C. 9 or 10 years old	9.3%
D. 11 or 12 years old	14.1%
E. 13 or 14 years old	21.8%
F. 15 or 16 years old	16.5%
G. 17 years old or older	1.7%

**Q-47 During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 times	53.7%
B. 1 or 2 times	7.9%
C. 3 to 9 times	6.2%
D. 10 to 19 times	4.5%
E. 20 to 39 times	8.2%
F. 40 or more times	19.6%

**Q-48 During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana on school property?**

	<u><b>Percent</b></u>
A. 0 times	85.4%
B. 1 or 2 times	3.7%
C. 3 to 9 times	4.8%
D. 10 to 19 times	2.5%
E. 20 to 39 times	1.8%
F. 40 or more times	1.8%

**The next 9 questions ask about other drugs.**

**Q-49 During your life, how many times have you used any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase?**

	<u><b>Percent</b></u>
A. 0 times	66.6%
B. 1 or 2 times	11.5%
C. 3 to 9 times	8.6%
D. 10 to 19 times	3.8%
E. 20 to 39 times	2.6%
F. 40 or more times	7.0%

**Q-50 During the past 30 days, how many times did you use any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase?**

	<u><b>Percent</b></u>
A. 0 times	88.2%
B. 1 or 2 times	6.1%
C. 3 to 9 times	3.0%
D. 10 to 19 times	0.8%
E. 20 to 39 times	0.5%
F. 40 or more times	1.3%

**Q-51 During your life, how many times have you sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high?**

	<u><b>Percent</b></u>
A. 0 times	67.8%
B. 1 or 2 times	11.4%
C. 3 to 9 times	8.5%
D. 10 to 19 times	6.3%
E. 20 to 39 times	2.3%
F. 40 or more times	3.6%

**Q-52 During your life, how many times have you used heroin (also called smack, junk, or China White)?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 times	91.1%
B. 1 or 2 times	3.4%
C. 3 to 9 times	2.4%
D. 10 to 19 times	0.7%
E. 20 to 39 times	0.0%
F. 40 or more times	2.5%

**Q-53 During your life, how many times have you used methamphetamines (also called speed, crystal, crank, or ice)?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 times	76.7%
B. 1 or 2 times	8.8%
C. 3 to 9 times	6.0%
D. 10 to 19 times	2.0%
E. 20 to 39 times	1.3%
F. 40 or more times	5.3%

**Q-54 During your life, how many times have you used ecstasy (also called MDMA)?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 times	74.7%
B. 1 or 2 times	12.7%
C. 3 to 9 times	4.3%
D. 10 to 19 times	3.3%
E. 20 to 39 times	2.1%
F. 40 or more times	2.8%

**Q-55 During your life, how many times have you taken steroid pills or shots without a doctor's prescription?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 times	92.0%
B. 1 or 2 times	2.2%
C. 3 to 9 times	1.7%
D. 10 to 19 times	1.3%
E. 20 to 39 times	1.2%
F. 40 or more times	1.7%

**Q-56 During your life, how many times have you used a needle to inject any illegal drug into your body?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 times	93.2%
B. 1 time	1.7%
C. 2 or more times	5.2%

**Q-57 During the past 12 months, has anyone offered, sold, or given you an illegal drug on school property?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. Yes	33.5%
B. No	66.5%

**The next 8 questions ask about sexual behavior.**

**Q-58 Have you ever had sexual intercourse?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. Yes	81.7%
B. No	18.3%

**Q-59 How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I have never had sexual intercourse	20.2%
B. 11 years old or younger	11.3%
C. 12 years old	7.8%
D. 13 years old	9.0%
E. 14 years old	17.0%
F. 15 years old	19.0%
G. 16 years old	10.8%
H. 17 years old or older	4.8%

**Q-60 During your life, with how many people have you had sexual intercourse?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I have never had sexual intercourse	20.7%
B. 1 person	15.1%
C. 2 people	8.7%
D. 3 people	11.0%
E. 4 people	9.0%
F. 5 people	9.7%
G. 6 or more people	25.8%

**Q-61 During the past 3 months, with how many people did you have sexual intercourse?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I have never had sexual intercourse	22.6%
B. I have had sexual intercourse, but not during the past 3 months	21.0%
C. 1 person	35.2%
D. 2 people	9.6%
E. 3 people	5.2%
F. 4 people	2.5%
G. 5 people	1.2%
H. 6 or more people	2.7%



**Q-62 Did you drink alcohol or use drugs before you had sexual intercourse the last time?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I have never had sexual intercourse	20.9%
B. Yes	34.6%
C. No	44.5%

**Q-63 The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I have never had sexual intercourse	20.8%
B. Yes	40.7%
C. No	38.5%

**Q-64 The last time you had sexual intercourse, what one method did you or your partner use to prevent pregnancy? (Select only one response.)**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I have never had sexual intercourse	20.1%
B. No method was used to prevent pregnancy	14.6%
C. Birth control pills	15.6%
D. Condoms	32.0%
E. Depo-Provera (injectable birth control)	4.2%
F. Withdrawal	8.2%
G. Some other method	2.7%
H. Not sure	2.7%

**The next 7 questions ask about body weight.**

**Q-65 How do you describe your weight?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. Very underweight	2.2%
B. Slightly underweight	10.7%
C. About the right weight	54.8%
D. Slightly overweight	27.8%
E. Very overweight	4.5%

**Q-66 Which of the following are you trying to do about your weight?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. Lose weight	45.3%
B. Gain weight	16.1%
C. Stay the same weight	16.4%
D. I am not trying to do anything about my weight	22.2%

**Q-67 During the past 30 days, did you exercise to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight?**

	<u><b>Percent</b></u>
A. Yes	59.2%
B. No	40.8%

**Q-68 During the past 30 days, did you eat less food, fewer calories, or foods low in fat to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight?**

	<u><b>Percent</b></u>
A. Yes	40.3%
B. No	59.7%

**Q-69 During the past 30 days, did you go without eating for 24 hours or more (also called fasting) to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight?**

	<u><b>Percent</b></u>
A. Yes	15.5%
B. No	84.5%

**Q-70 During the past 30 days, did you take any diet pills, powders, or liquids without a doctor's advice to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight? (Do not include meal replacement products such as Slim Fast.)**

	<u><b>Percent</b></u>
A. Yes	10.7%
B. No	89.3%

**Q-71 During the past 30 days, did you vomit or take laxatives to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight?**

	<u><b>Percent</b></u>
A. Yes	8.5%
B. No	91.5%

**The next 8 questions ask about food you ate or drank during the past 7 days. Think about all the meals and snacks you had from the time you got up until you went to bed.**

**Q-72 During the past 7 days, how many times did you drink 100% fruit juices such as orange juice, apple juice, or grape juice? (Do not count punch, Kool-Aid, sports drinks, or other fruit-flavored drinks.)**

	<u><b>Percent</b></u>
A. I did not drink 100% fruit juice during the past 7 days	20.4%
B. 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days	34.0%
C. 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days	21.1%
D. 1 time per day	10.2%
E. 2 times per day	6.7%
F. 3 times per day	3.0%
G. 4 or more times per day	4.5%

**Q-73 During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat fruit? (Do not count fruit juice.)**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I did not eat fruit during the past 7 days	15.4%
B. 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days	41.9%
C. 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days	22.3%
D. 1 time per day	8.4%
E. 2 times per day	7.1%
F. 3 times per day	2.2%
G. 4 or more times per day	2.7%

**Q-74 During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat green salad?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I did not eat green salad during the past 7 days	34.1%
B. 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days	40.6%
C. 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days	16.4%
D. 1 time per day	4.8%
E. 2 times per day	1.7%
F. 3 times per day	1.0%
G. 4 or more times per day	1.5%

**Q-75 During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat potatoes? (Do not count french fries, fried potatoes, or potato chips.)**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I did not eat potatoes during the past 7 days	26.6%
B. 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days	53.7%
C. 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days	13.5%
D. 1 time per day	3.3%
E. 2 times per day	1.2%
F. 3 times per day	0.5%
G. 4 or more times per day	1.3%

**Q-76 During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat carrots?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I did not eat carrots during the past 7 days	47.8%
B. 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days	38.1%
C. 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days	8.5%
D. 1 time per day	2.4%
E. 2 times per day	0.8%
F. 3 times per day	0.7%
G. 4 or more times per day	1.7%

**Q-77 During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat other vegetables? (Do not count green salad, potatoes, or carrots.)**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I did not eat other vegetables during the past 7 days	20.4%
B. 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days	48.3%
C. 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days	18.4%
D. 1 time per day	7.0%
E. 2 times per day	2.7%
F. 3 times per day	1.7%
G. 4 or more times per day	1.5%

**Q-78 During the past 7 days, how many times did you drink a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop, such as Coke, Pepsi, or Sprite? (Do not include diet soda or pop.)**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I did not drink soda or pop during the past 7 days	19.3%
B. 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days	25.1%
C. 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days	20.6%
D. 1 time per day	8.7%
E. 2 times per day	10.6%
F. 3 times per day	6.0%
G. 4 or more times per day	9.7%

**Q-79 During the past 7 days, how many glasses of milk did you drink? (Include the milk you drank in a glass or cup, from a carton, or with cereal. Count the half pint of milk served at school as equal to one glass.)**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I did not drink milk during the past 7 days	15.0%
B. 1 to 3 glasses during the past 7 days	20.6%
C. 4 to 6 glasses during the past 7 days	18.2%
D. 1 glass per day	7.3%
E. 2 glasses per day	15.0%
F. 3 glasses per day	10.1%
G. 4 or more glasses per day	13.8%

**The next 5 questions ask about physical activity.**

**Q-80 During the past 7 days, on how many days were you physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day? (Add up all the time you spend in any kind of physical activity that increases your heart rate and makes you breathe hard some of the time.)**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 days	15.5%
B. 1 day	10.8%
C. 2 days	10.9%
D. 3 days	9.3%
E. 4 days	8.6%
F. 5 days	14.5%
G. 6 days	6.1%
H. 7 days	24.4%

**Q-81 On an average school day, how many hours do you watch TV?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I do not watch TV on an average school day	13.6%
B. Less than 1 hour per day	23.0%
C. 1 hour per day	22.7%
D. 2 hours per day	18.5%
E. 3 hours per day	10.9%
F. 4 hours per day	4.9%
G. 5 or more hours per day	6.4%

**Q-82 On an average school day, how many hours do you play video or computer games or use a computer for something that is not school work? (include activities such as Nintendo, Game Boy, PlayStation, Xbox, computer games, and the Internet.)**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I do not play video or computer games or use a computer for something that is not school work	27.8%
B. Less than 1 hour per day	29.4%
C. 1 hour per day	14.1%
D. 2 hours per day	12.2%
E. 3 hours per day	7.5%
F. 4 hours per day	3.4%
G. 5 or more hours per day	5.6%

**Q-83 In an average week when you are in school, on how many days do you go to physical education (PE) classes?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 days	41.1%
B. 1 day	8.0%
C. 2 days	4.9%
D. 3 days	3.1%
E. 4 days	1.2%
F. 5 days	41.7%

**Q-84 During the past 12 months, on how many sports teams did you play? (Include any teams run by your school or community groups.)**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. 0 teams	59.0%
B. 1 team	17.8%
C. 2 teams	11.5%
D. 3 or more teams	11.7%

**The next 6 questions ask about other health-related topics.**

**Q-85 Have you ever been taught about AIDS or HIV infection in school?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. Yes	89.4%
B. No	6.2%
C. Not sure	4.5%

**Q-86 Has a doctor or nurse ever told you that you have asthma?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. Yes	25.8%
B. No	70.6%
C. Not sure	3.5%

**Q-87 Do you still have asthma?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I have never had asthma	57.1%
B. Yes	19.6%
C. No	14.1%
D. Not sure	9.2%

**Q-88 At school during the past 12 months, did you receive help from a resource teacher, speech therapist or other special education teacher?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. Yes	18.5%
B. No	81.5%

**Q-89 How often do you wear a seat belt when driving a car?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. I do not drive a car	19.1%
B. Never	10.5%
C. Rarely	20.3%
D. Sometimes	15.2%
E. Most of the time	13.3%
F. Always	21.6%

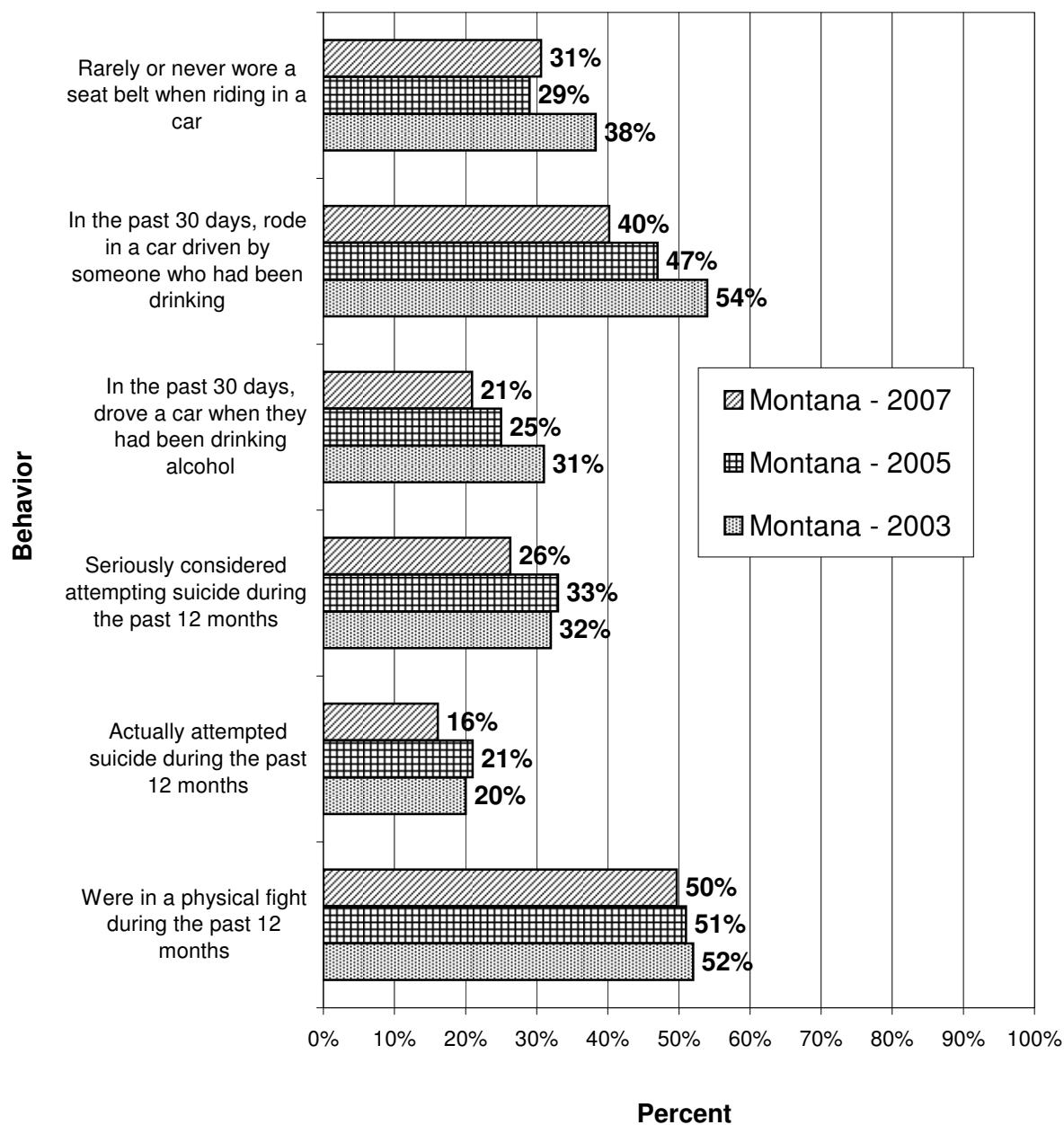
**Q-90 Do you drive, and did you complete driver education (classroom and behind-the-wheel)?**

	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
A. No, I do not drive; I do not have a valid license or permit, and no, I did not complete driver education.	30.0%
B. No, I do not drive; I do not have a valid license or permit, but yes, I completed driver education.	5.6%
C. Yes, I drive with a valid license or permit, but no, I did not complete driver education.	13.3%
D. Yes, I drive with a valid license or permit, and yes, I did complete driver education.	39.2%
E. Yes, I drive regularly on public roads, but I do not have a valid license or permit.	11.9%

## **APPENDIX B**

### **REFERENCED FIGURES**

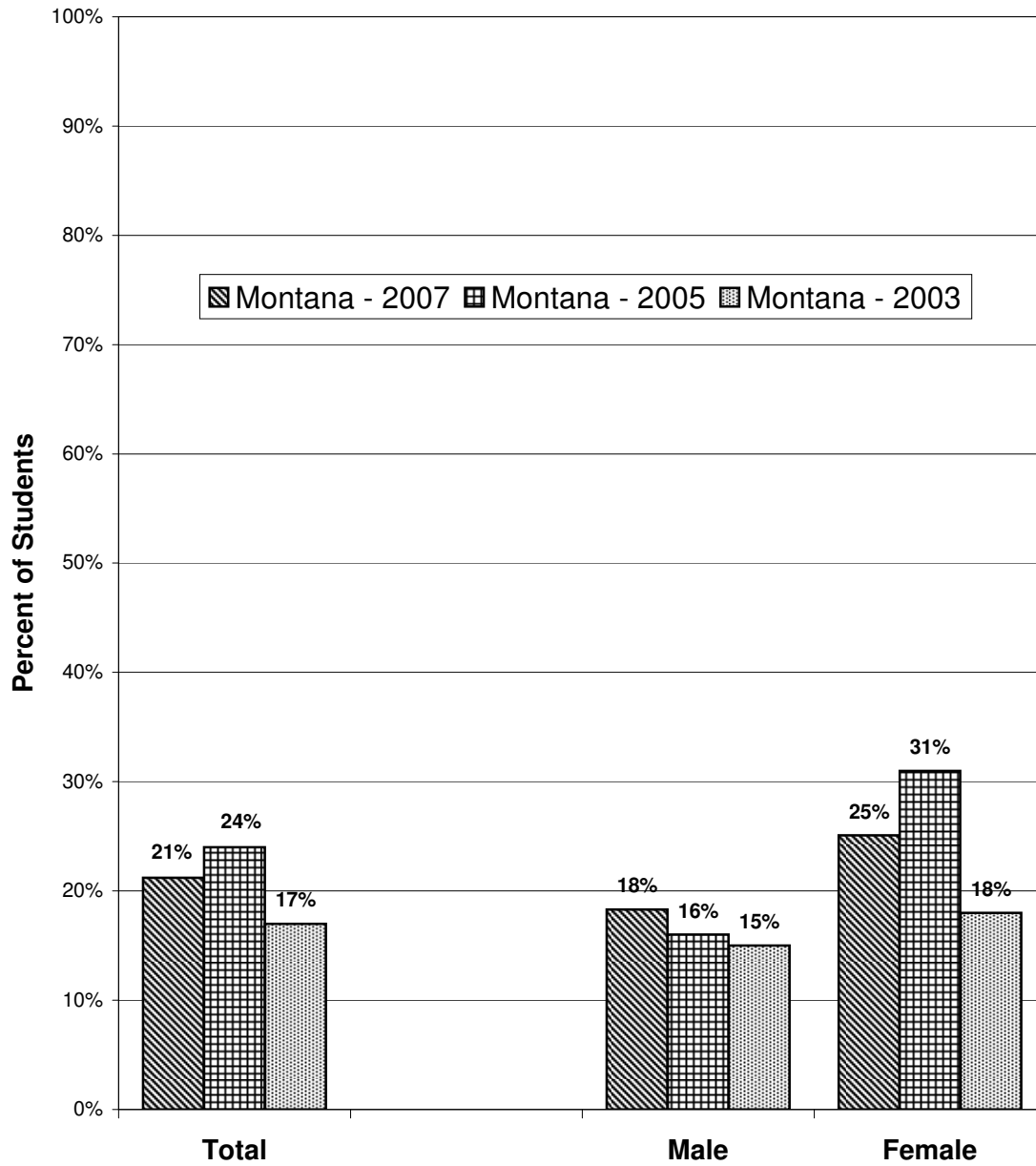
**Figure 1**  
**Unintentional injury and violence risk behaviors of alternative school students**





**Figure 2**

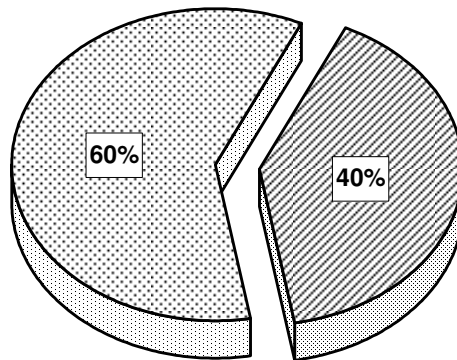
**Percent of alternative school students who "Always" wear a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else**



**Figure 3**

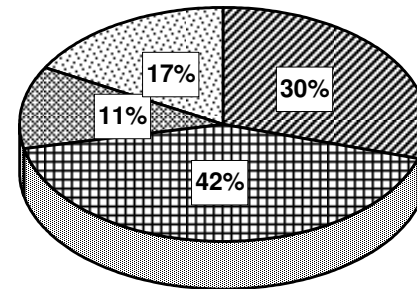
**Percent of those alternative school students who, during the past 30 days, reported riding in a vehicle that was driven by someone who had been drinking, by number of times**

**Percent of all alternative school students**



Have not ridden with drinker  
Have ridden with drinker

**Number of times  
they rode with drinker, by percent**

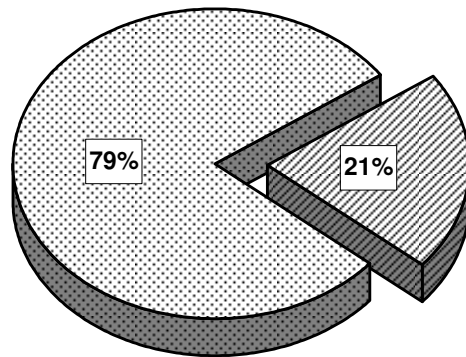


Once      2 or 3 times  
4 or 5 times      6 or more times

**Figure 4**

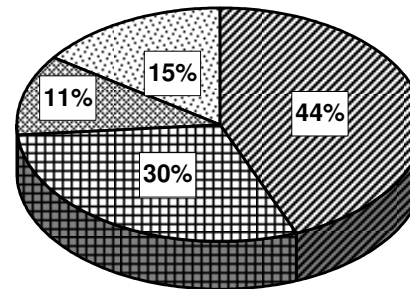
**Percent of those alternative school students who reported that during the 30 days prior to the survey they drove a vehicle after drinking, by the number of times**

**Percent of all alternative school students**



Have not driven after drinking  
Have driven after drinking

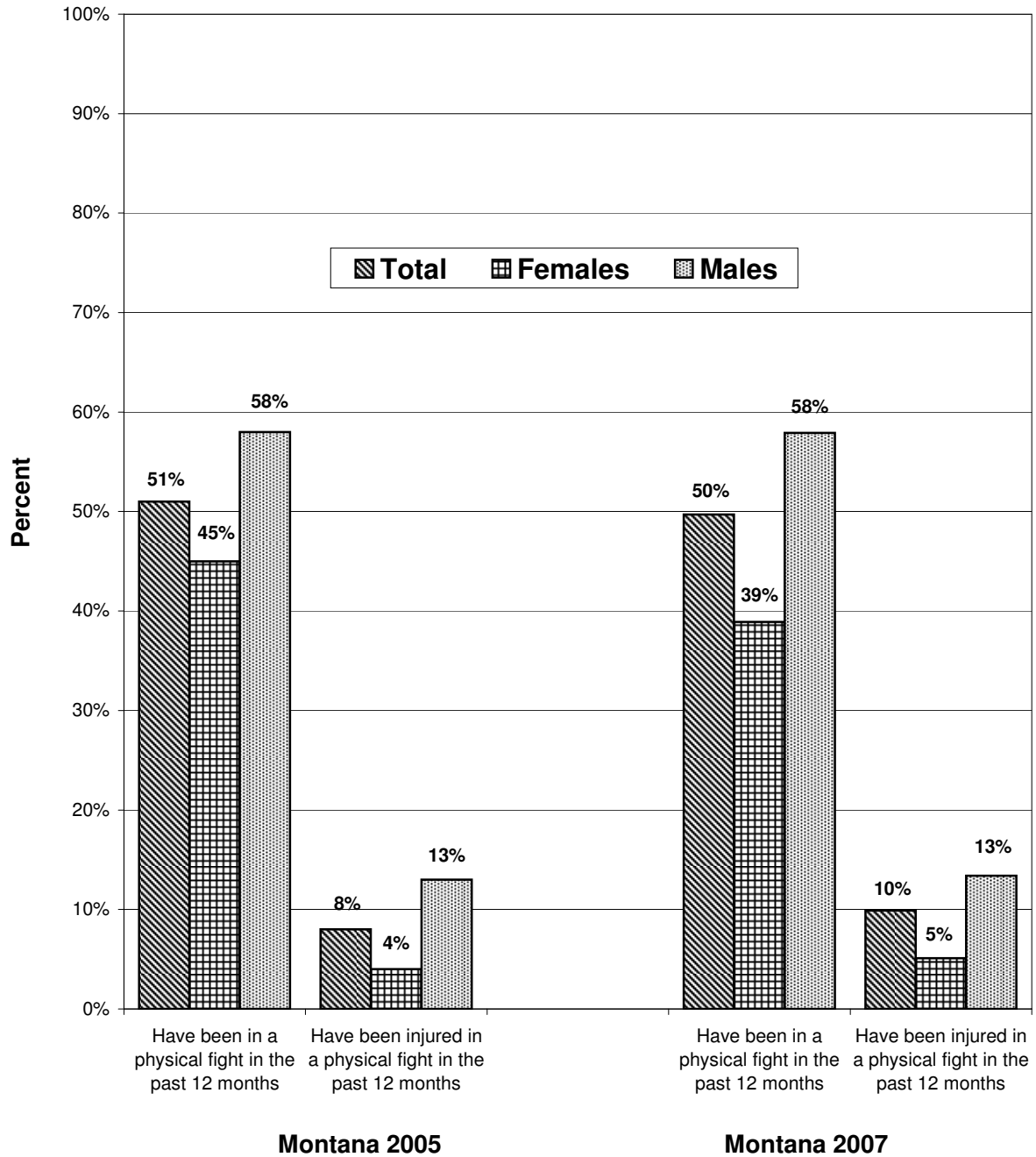
**Number of times they drove while drinking, by percent**



Once  
2 or 3 times  
4 or 5 times  
6 or more times

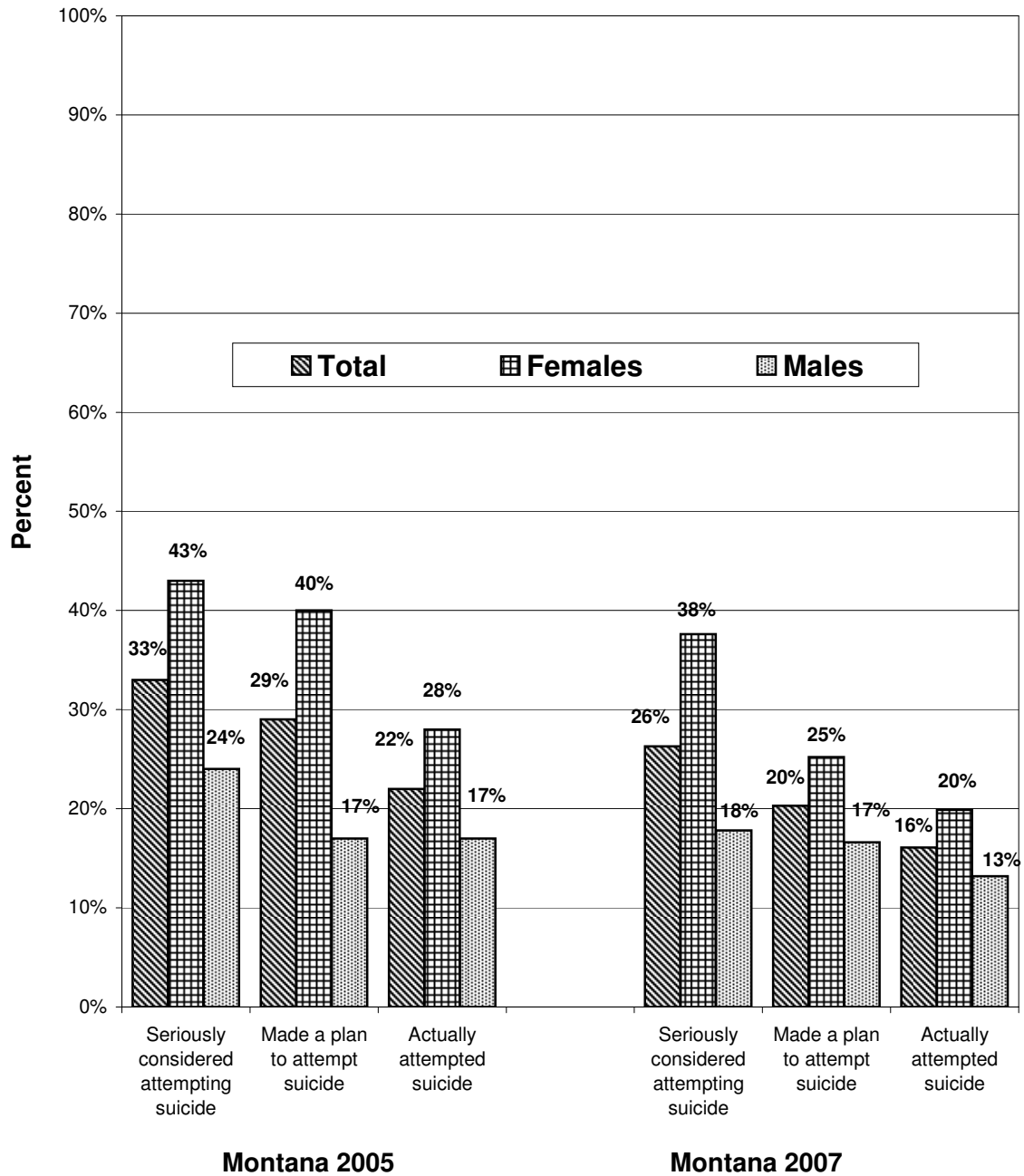
**Figure 5**

**Percent of alternative school students involved and/or injured  
in a physical fight in the past 12 months**



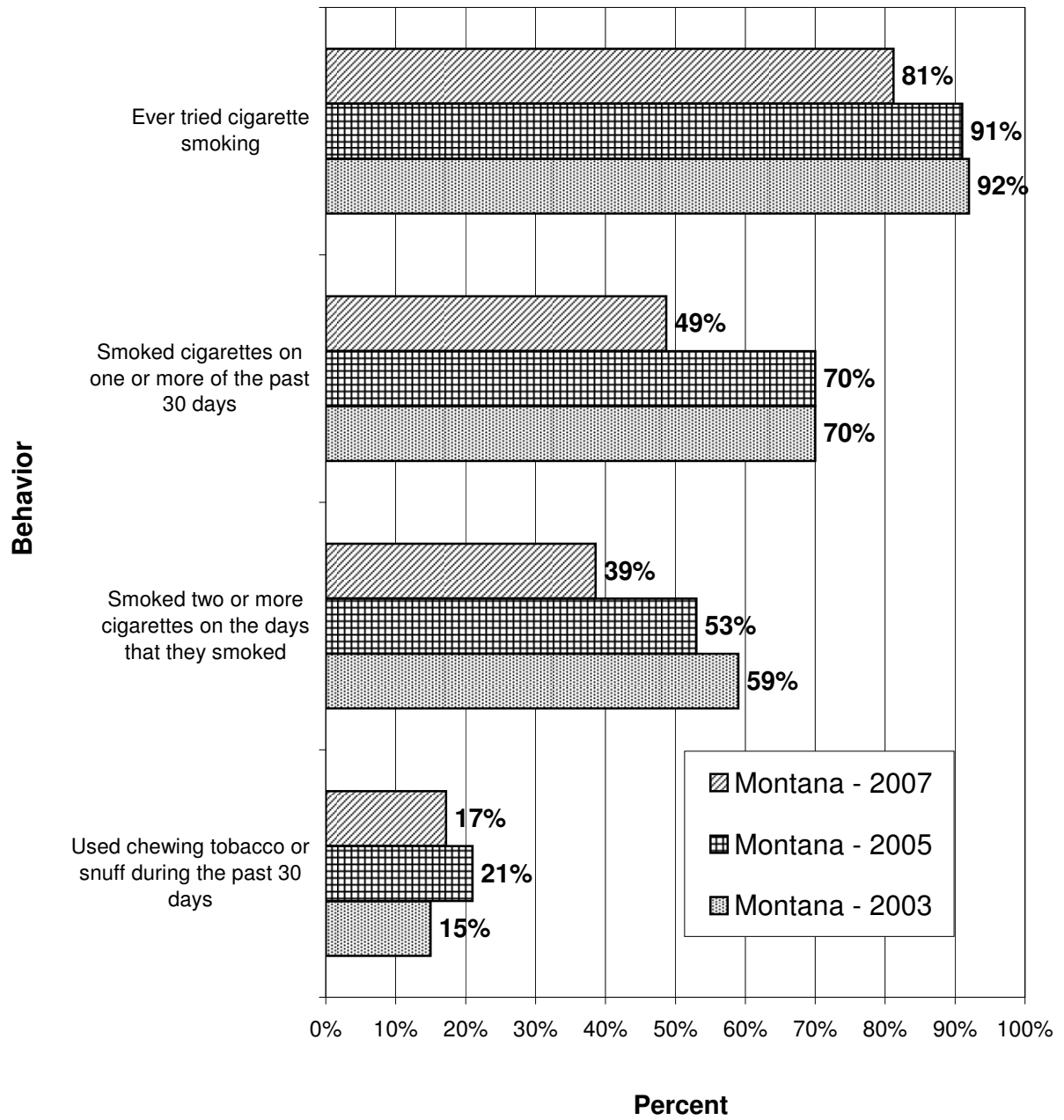
**Figure 6**

**Percent of alternative school students who considered, planned, or attempted suicide in the past 12 months**



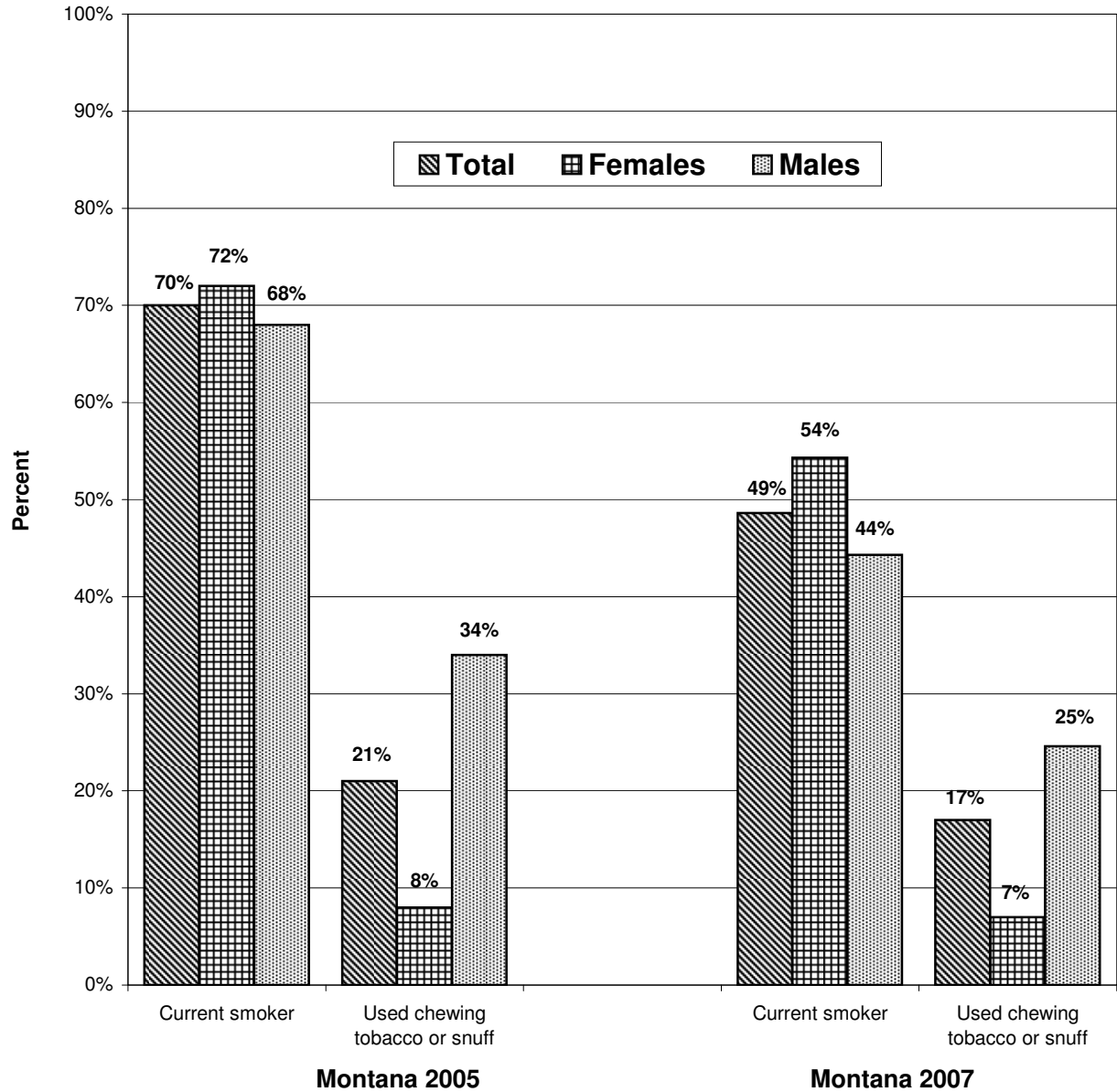
**Figure 7**

**Tobacco use risk behaviors of alternative school students**



**Figure 8**

**Percent of alternative school students who reported that they were current smokers or that they used chewing tobacco or snuff in the 30 days prior to the survey, by gender**



**Figure 9**

**Alcohol and other drug use risk behaviors of Montana  
alternative school students**

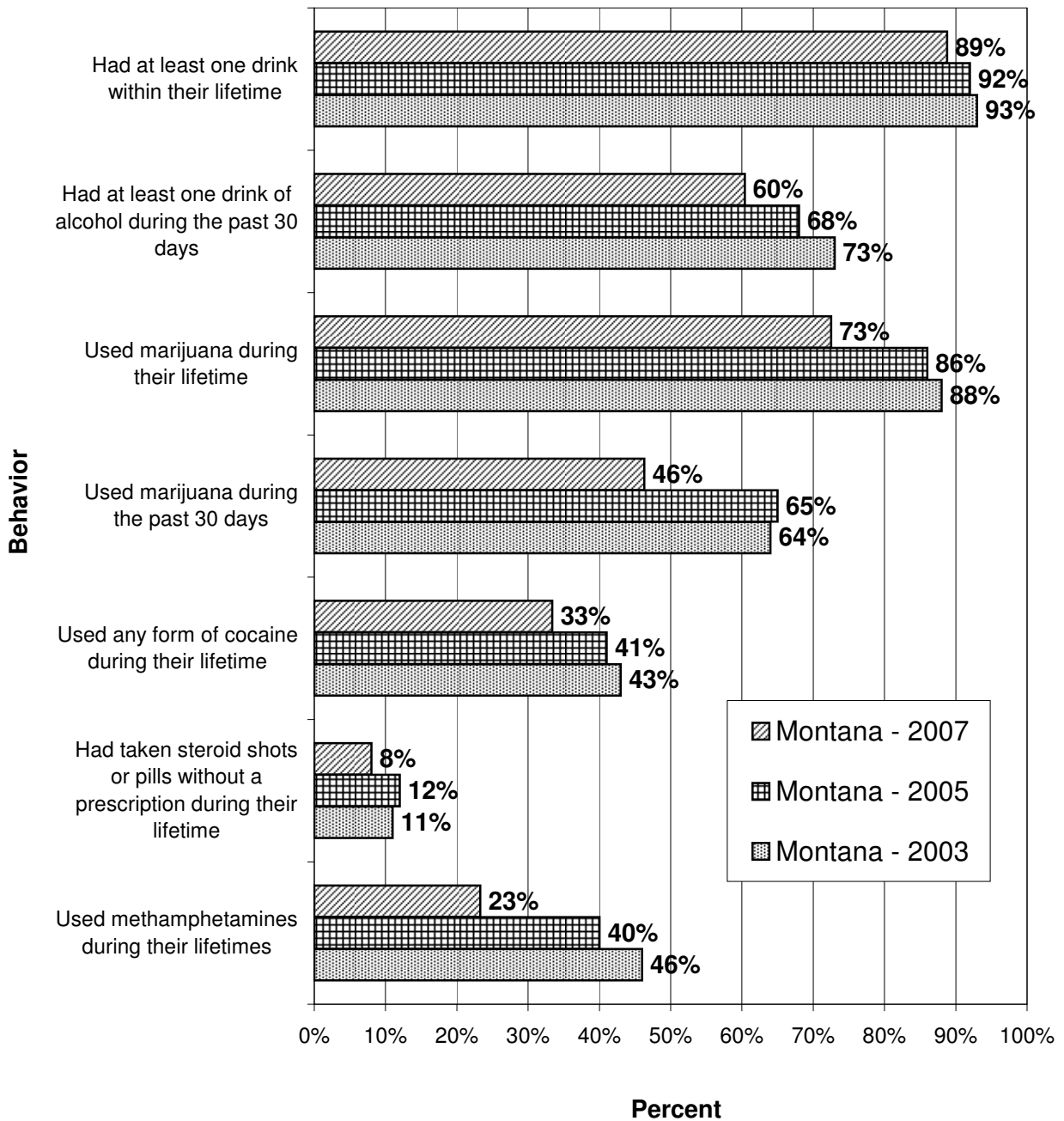
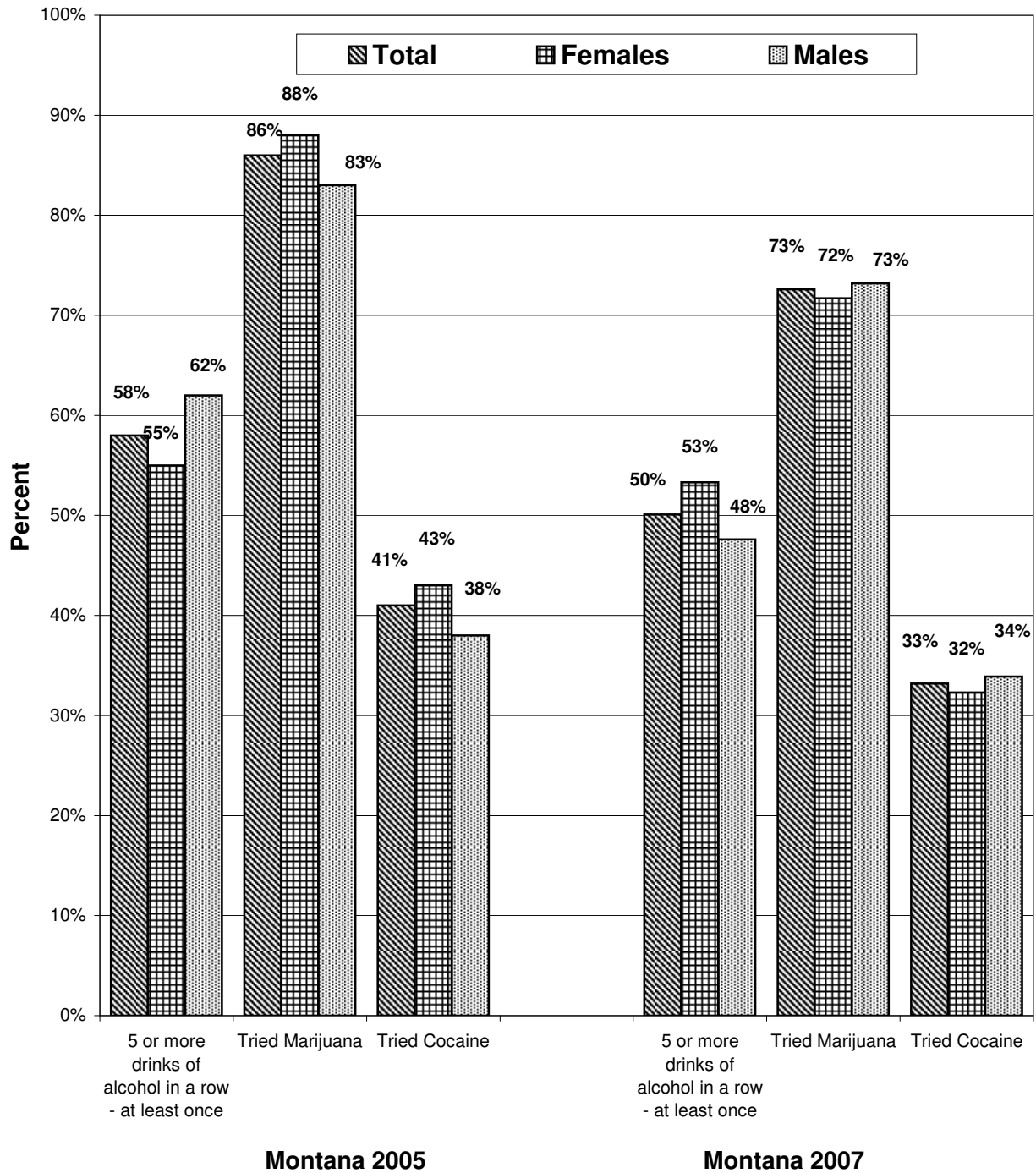




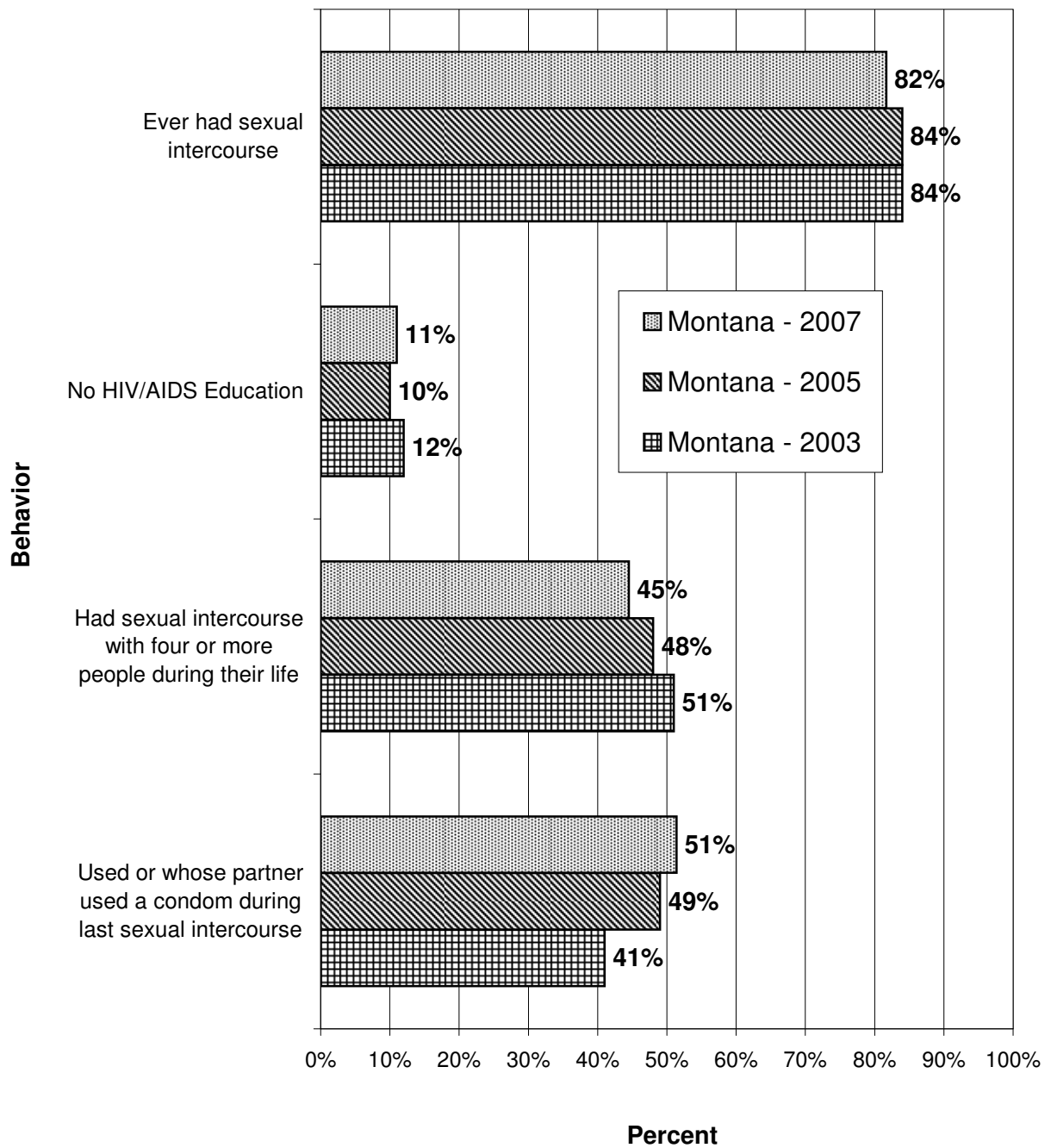
Figure 10

Percent of alternative school students with a potential for alcohol and other drug use



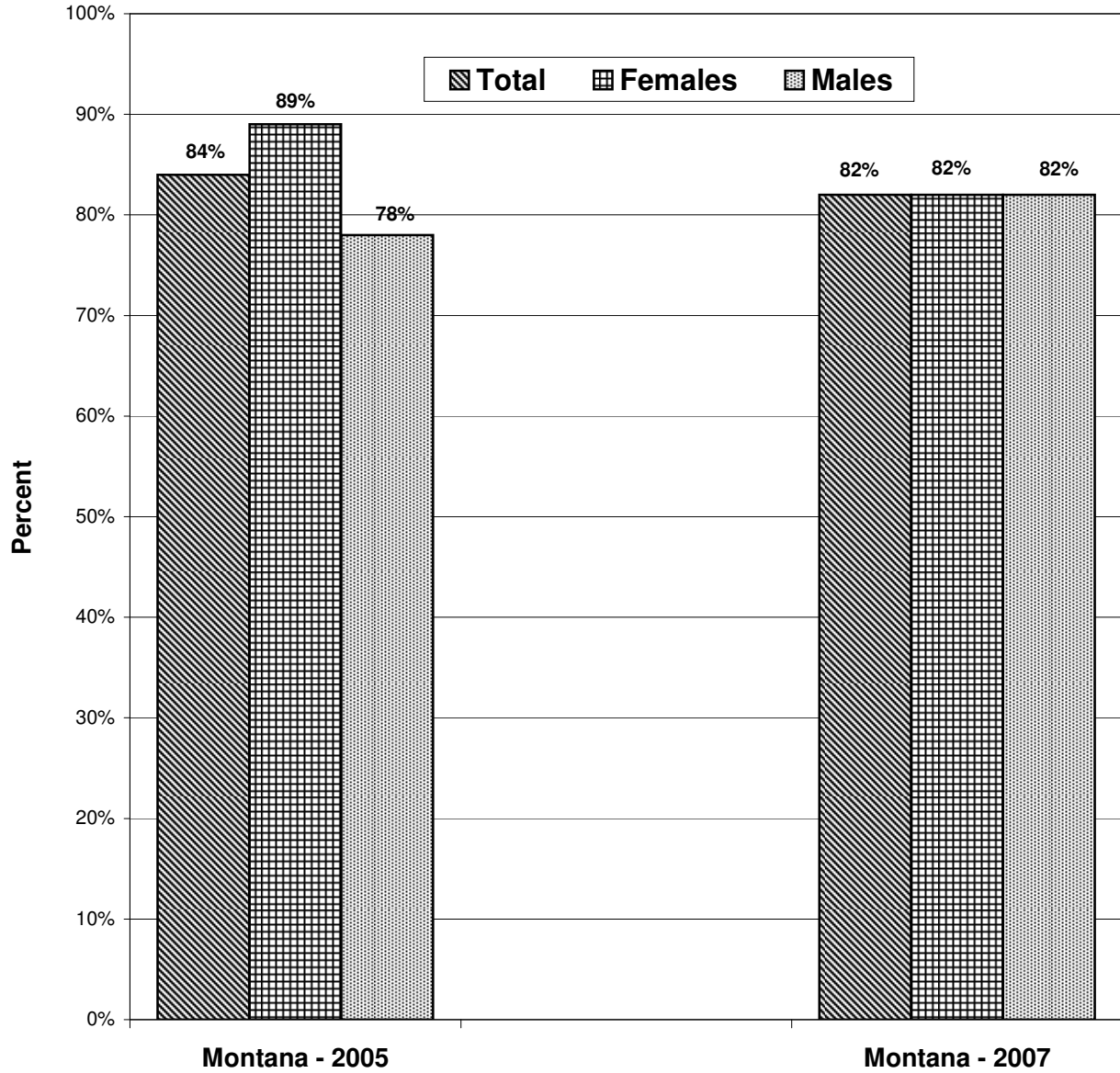
**Figure 11**

**Sexual behaviors of Montana alternative school students**



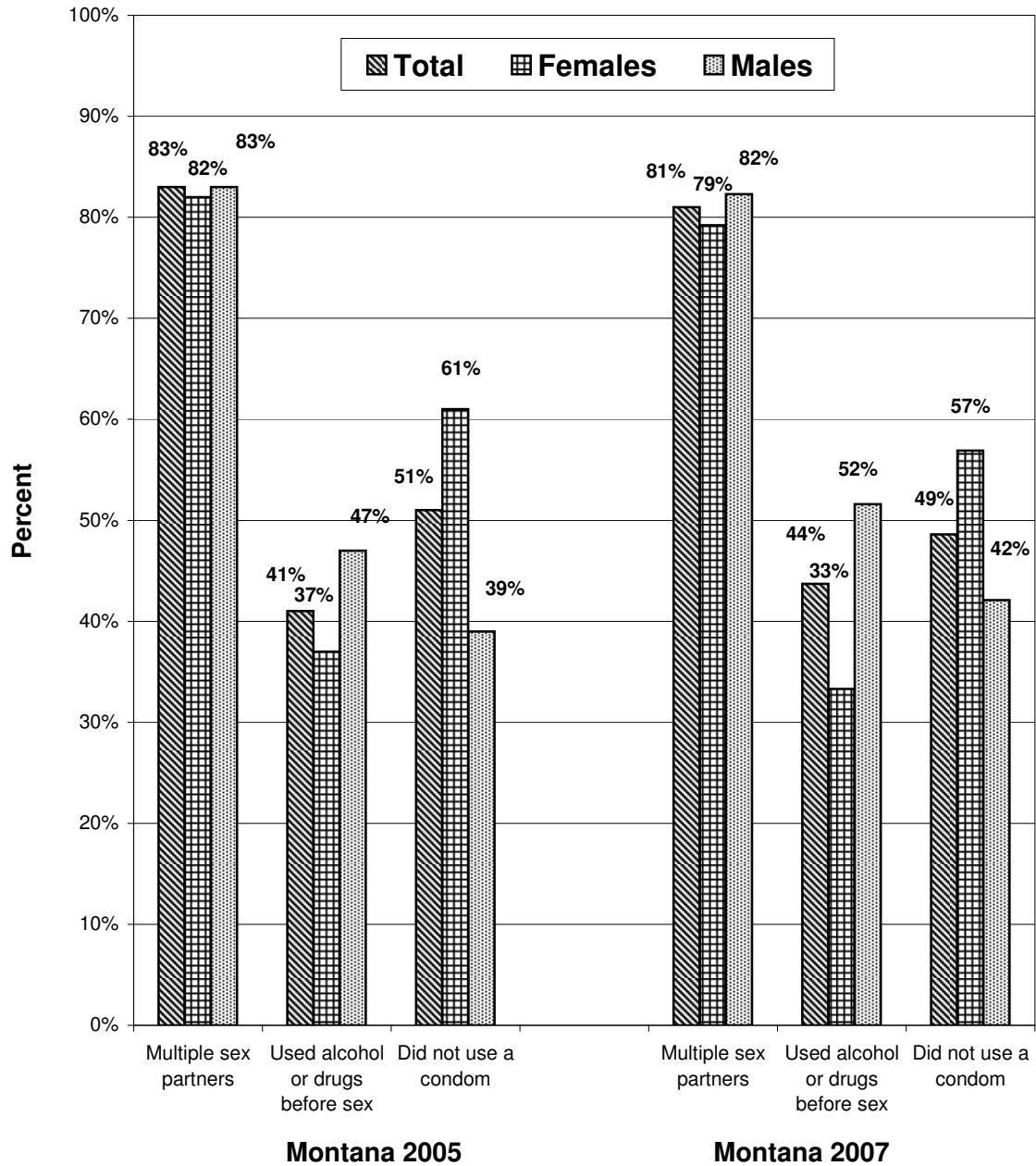
**Figure 12**

**Percent of alternative school students who reported ever  
having had sexual intercourse, by gender**

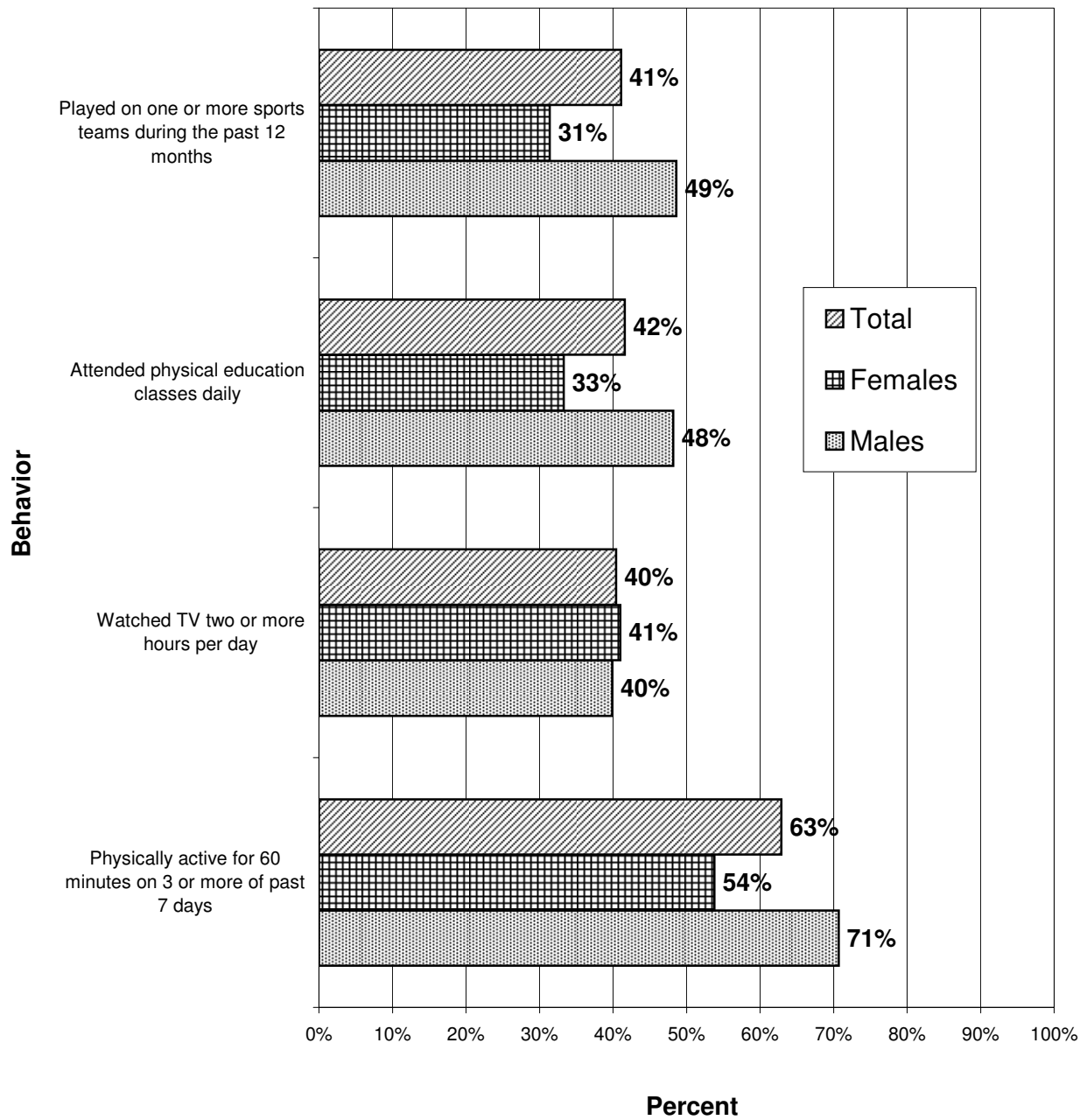


**Figure 13**

**Percent of alternative school students who have had sexual intercourse and reported having engaged in high-risk sexual behaviors**

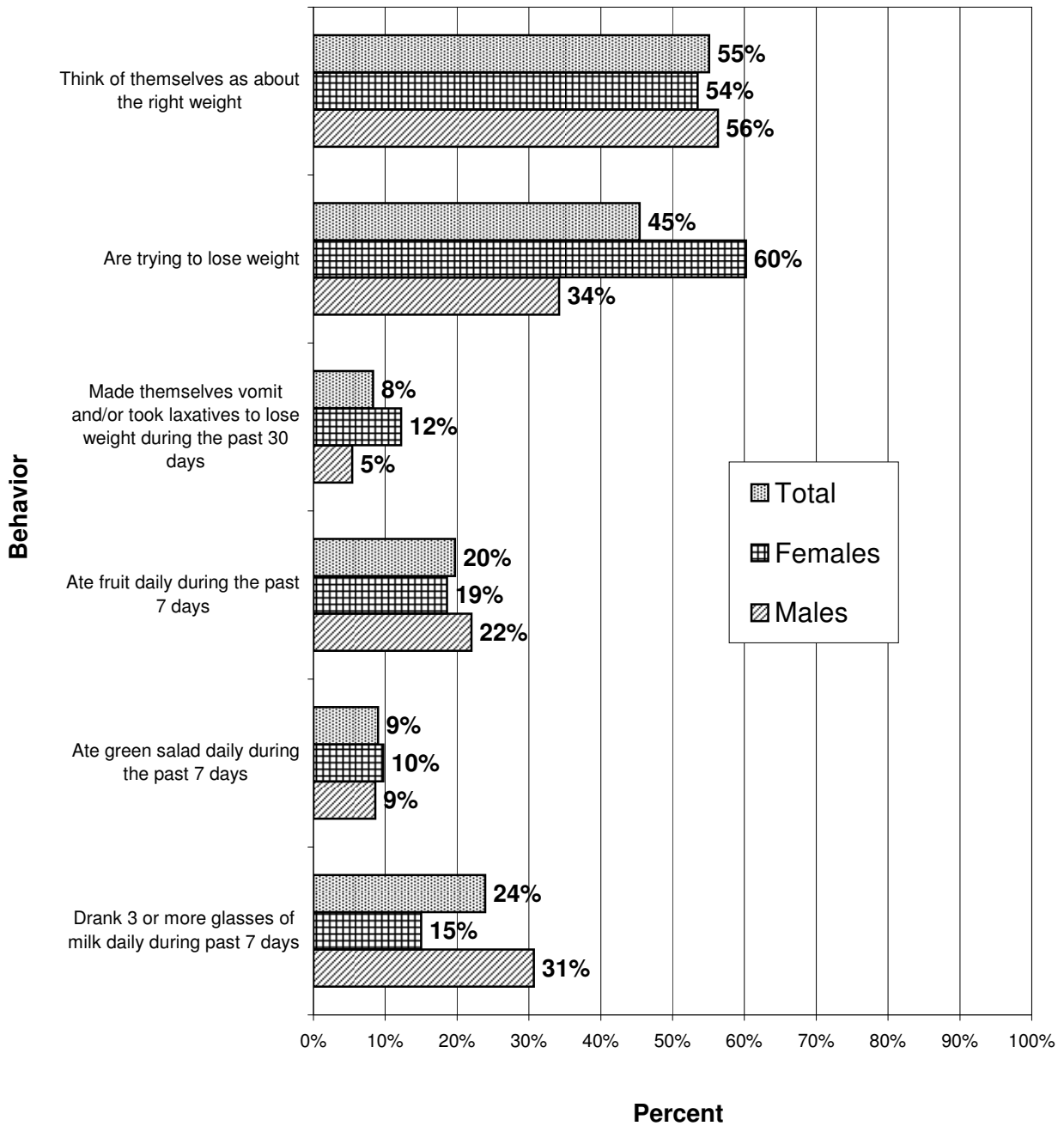


**Figure 14**  
**Physical activities of alternative school students**



**Figure 15**

**Dietary behaviors of alternative school students**



## **APPENDIX C**

### **ADDITIONAL CHARTS**

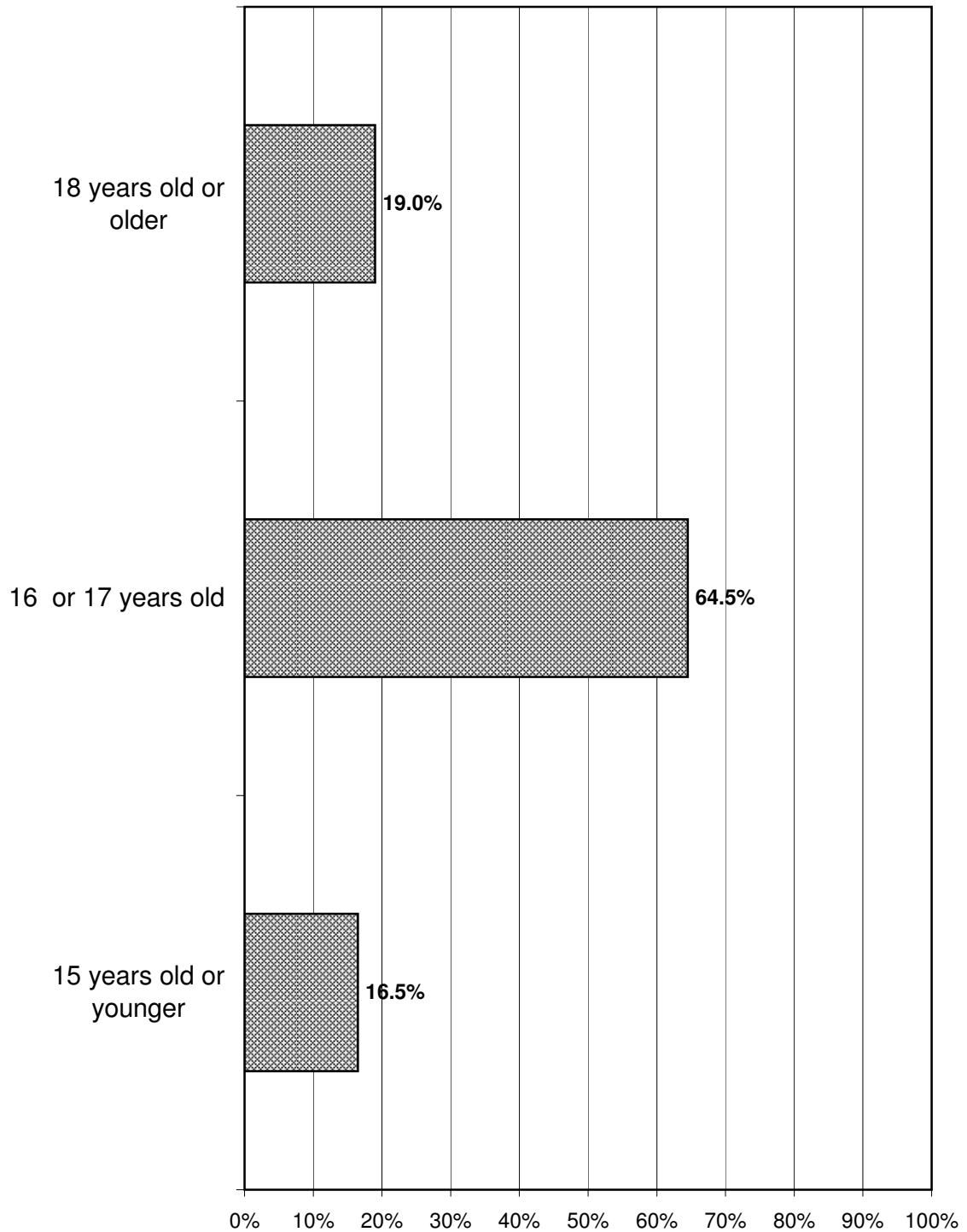
## List of Charts in Appendix C

<u>Topic</u>	<u>YRBS Question</u>	<u>Chart</u>
Demographic - age	Q-1	1
Demographic - grade	Q-3	2
Seat belt usage	Q-9	3
Seat belt usage	Q-89	4
Physical fighting	Q-20	5
Suicide related	Q-23	6
Tobacco use	Q-29	7
Tobacco use	Q-31	8
Tobacco use	Q-33	9
Alcohol use	Q-39	10
Marijuana use	Q-45	11
Drug use	Q-51	12
Drug use	Q-56	13
Sexual behavior	Q-61	14
Sexual behavior	Q-64	15
Weight	Q-65	16
Physical activity	Q-80	17
Physical activity	Q-83	18
Physical activity	Q-84	19
HIV/AIDS Education	Q-85	20



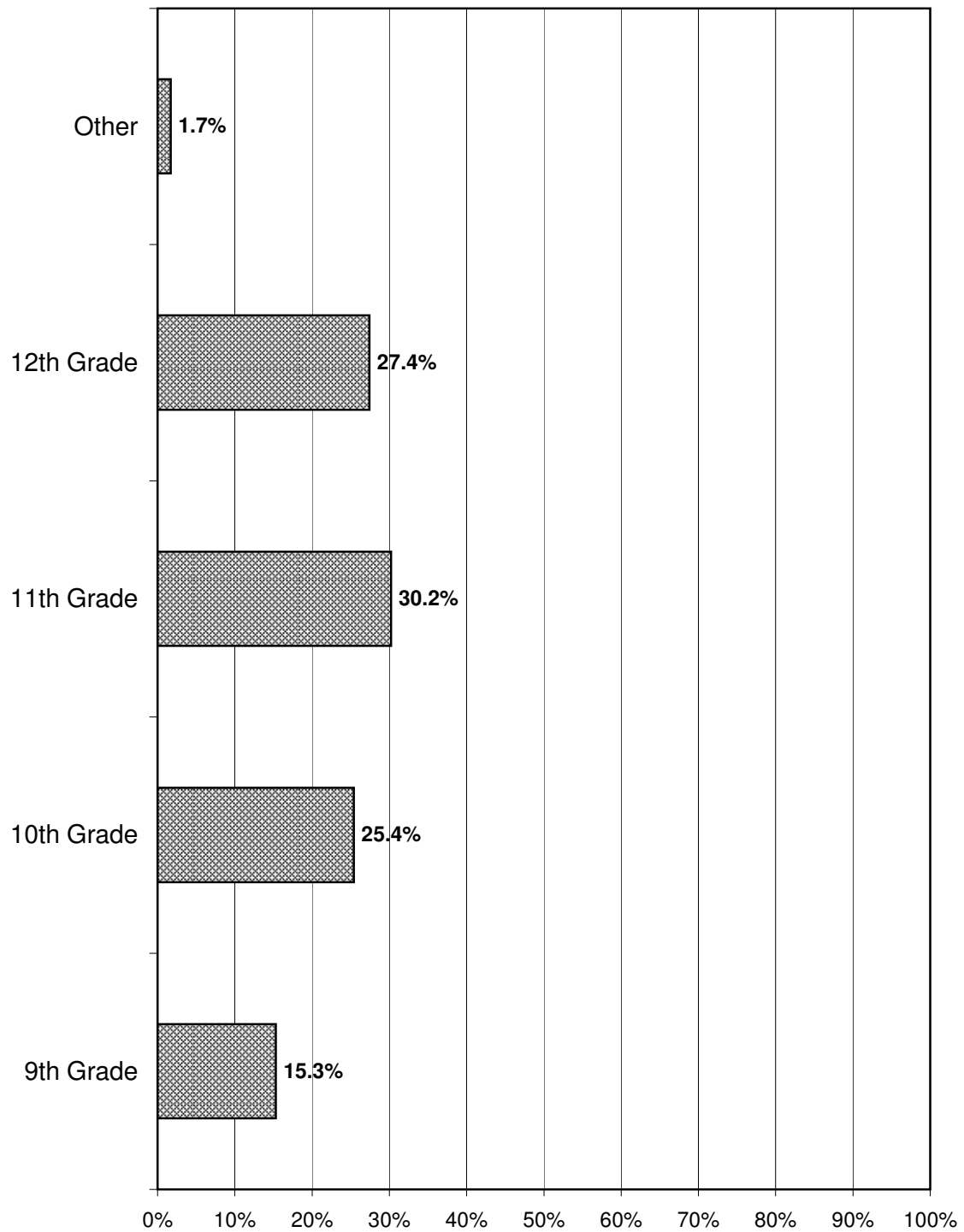
**Chart 1**

**Q-1 How old are you?**



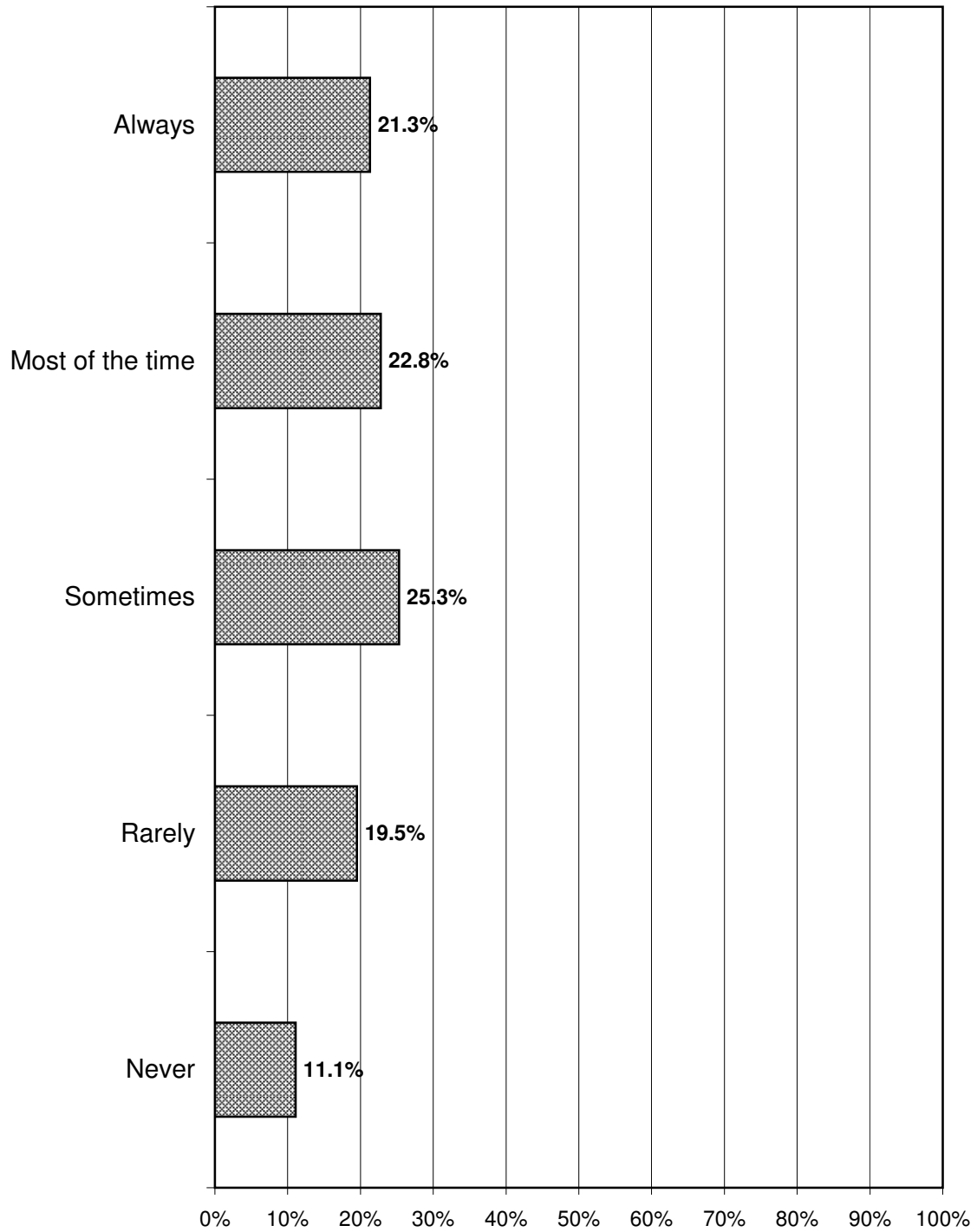
**Chart 2**

**Q-3 In what grade are you?**



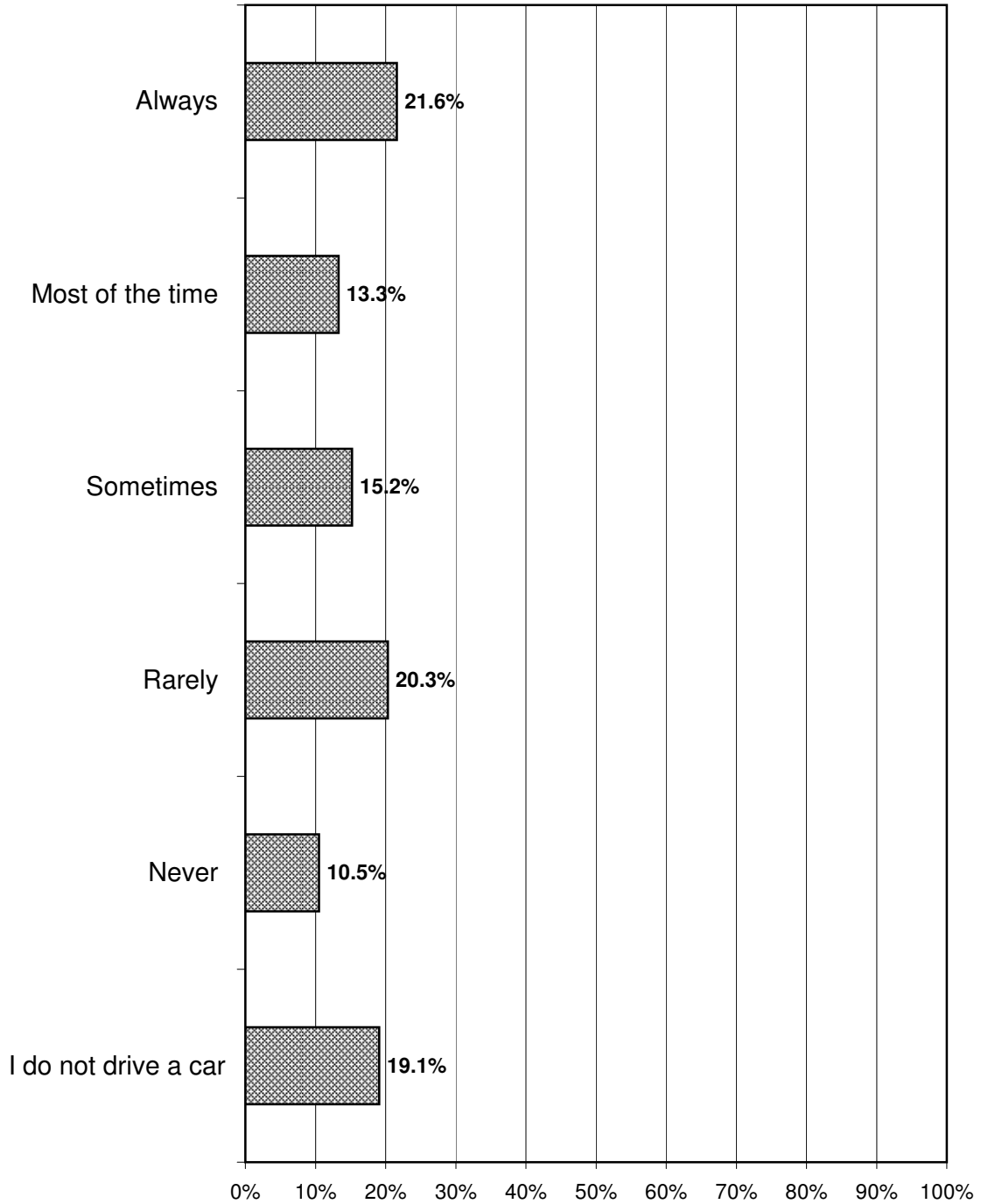
**Chart 3**

**Q-9 How often do you wear a seat belt when riding in a car  
driven by someone else?**

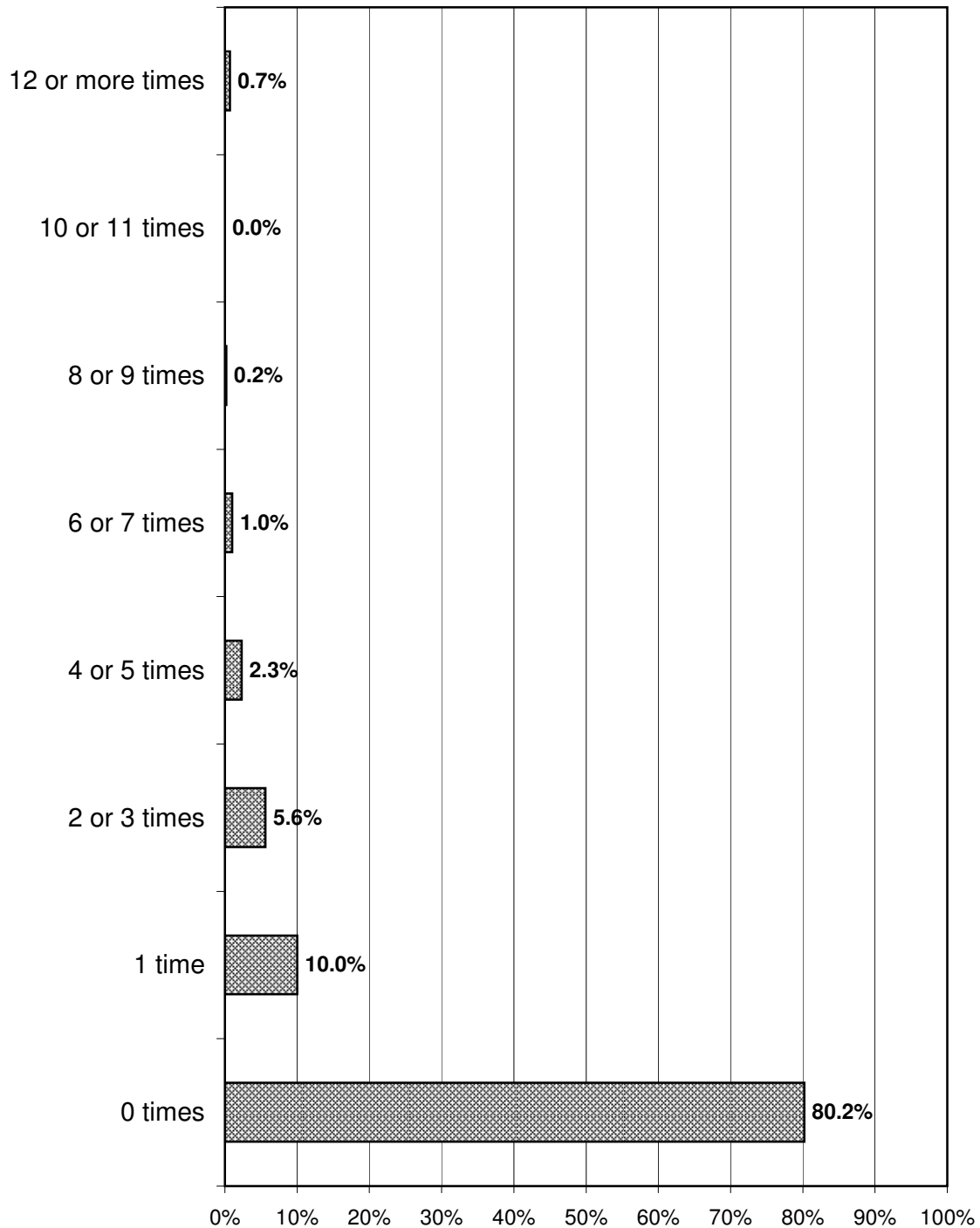


**Chart 4**

**Q-89 How often do you wear a seat belt when driving a car?**

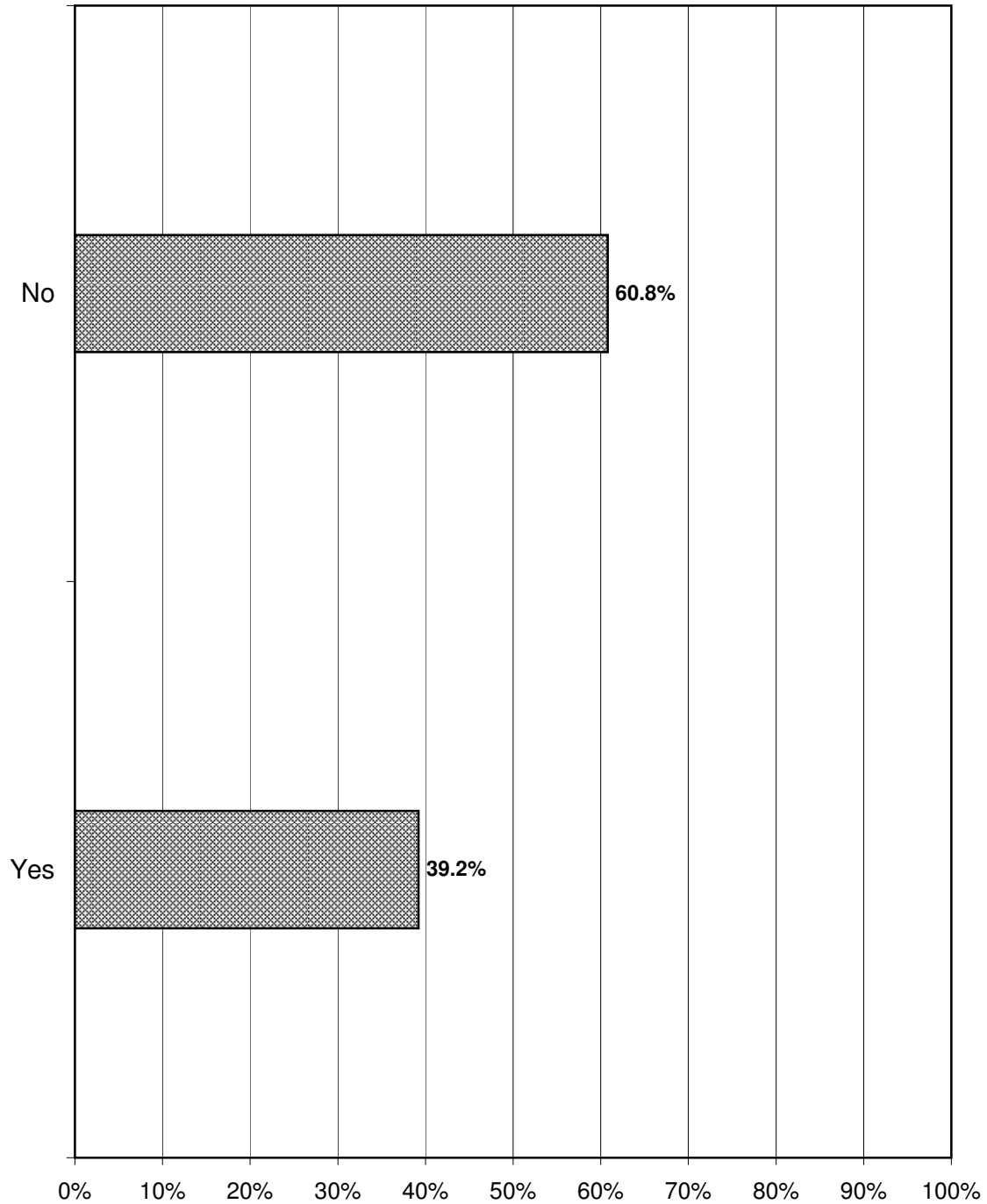


**Chart 5**  
**Q-20 During the past 12 months, how many times were you  
in a physical fight on school property?**

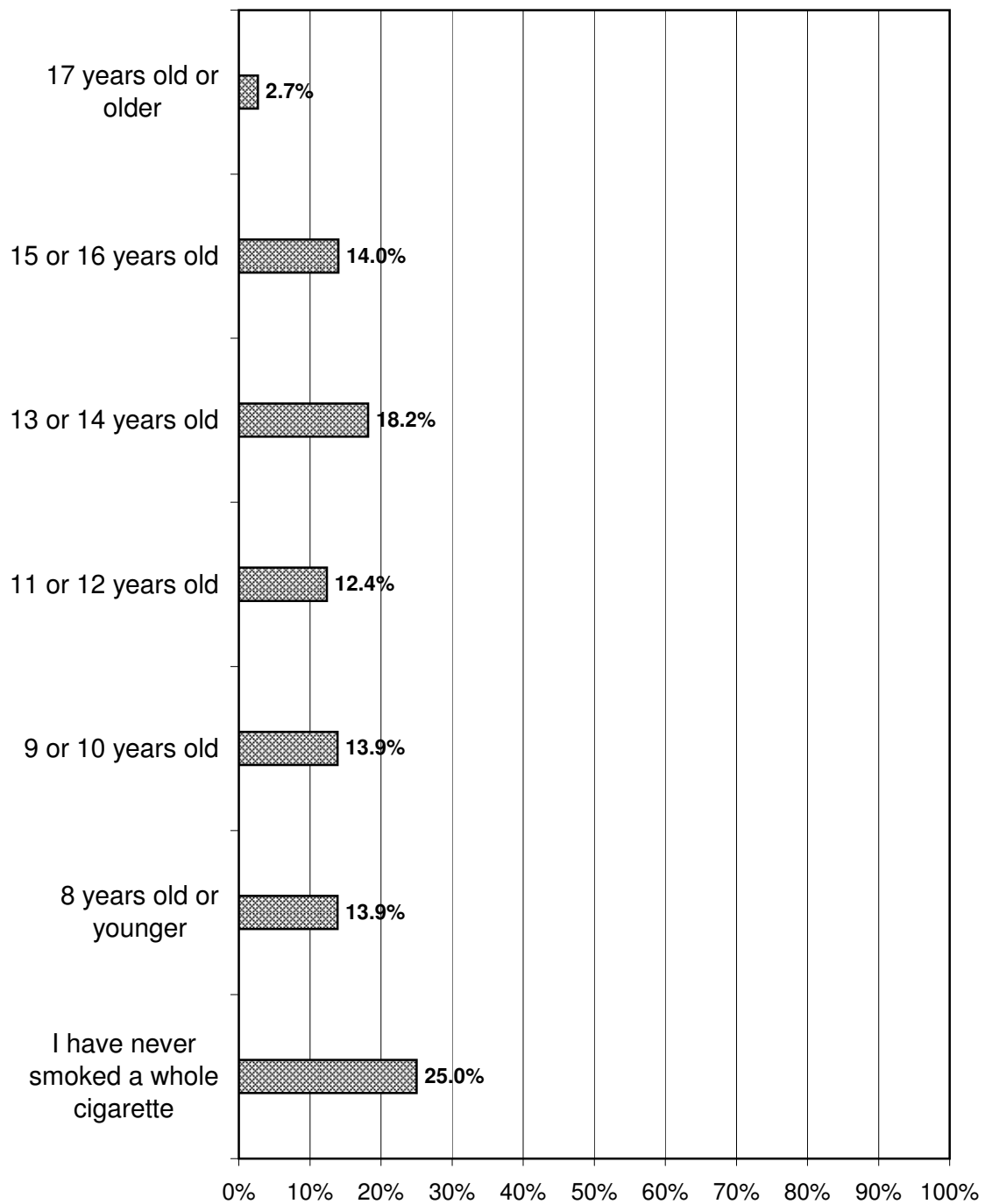


**Chart 6**

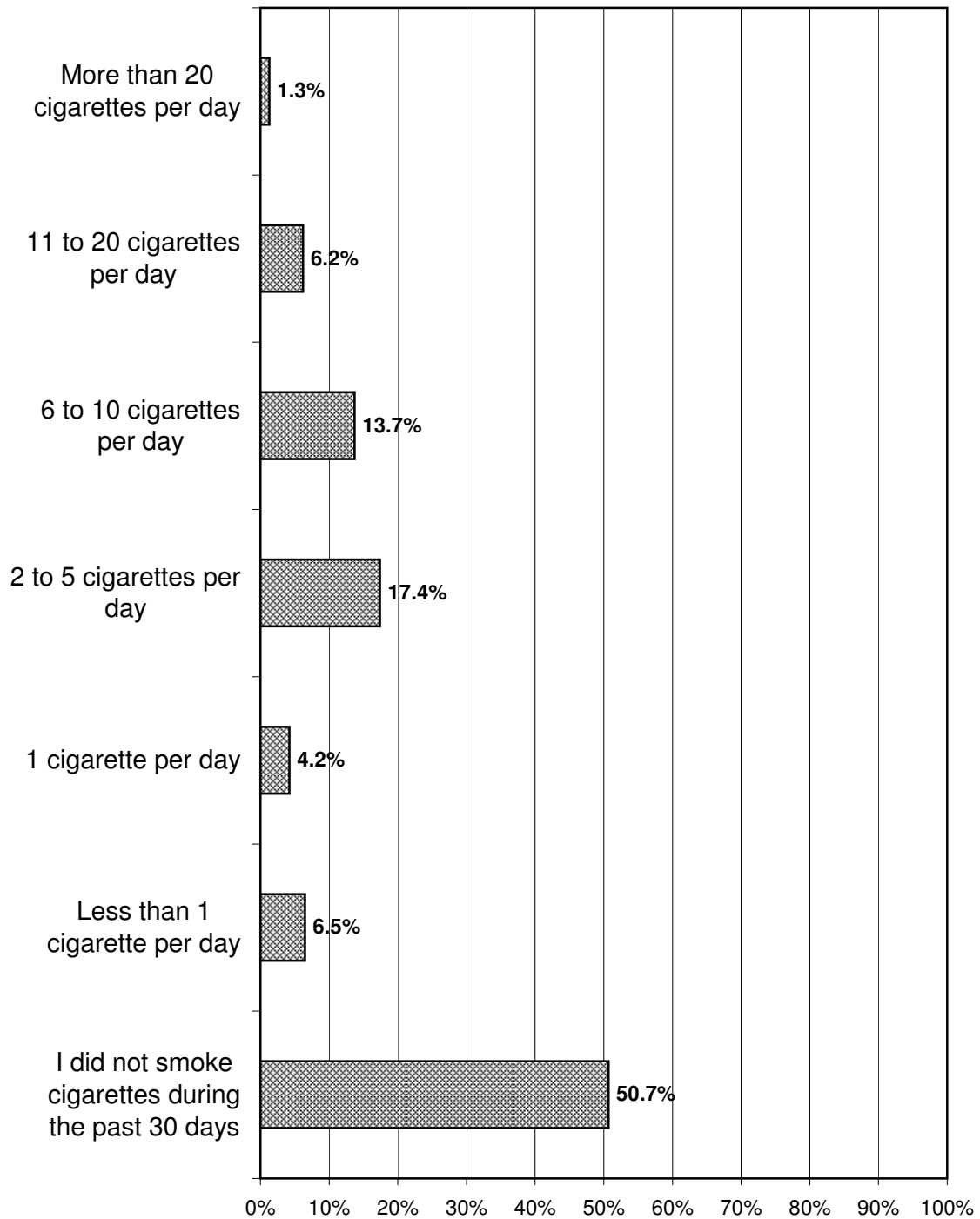
**Q-23 During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?**



**Chart 7**  
**Q-29 How old were you when you smoked a whole cigarette**  
**for the first time?**

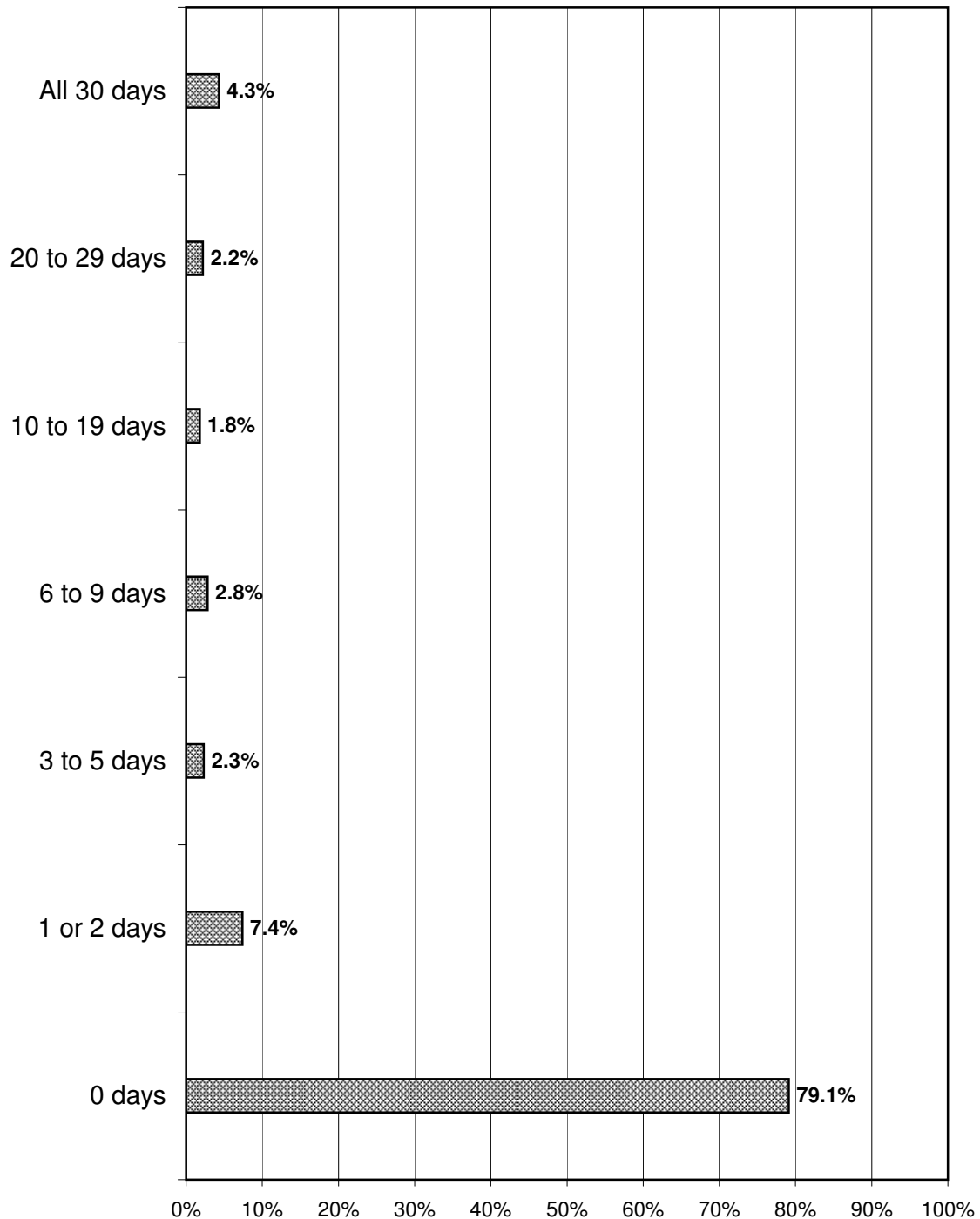


**Chart 8**  
**Q-31 During the past 30 days, on the days you smoked, how many cigarettes did you smoke per day?**

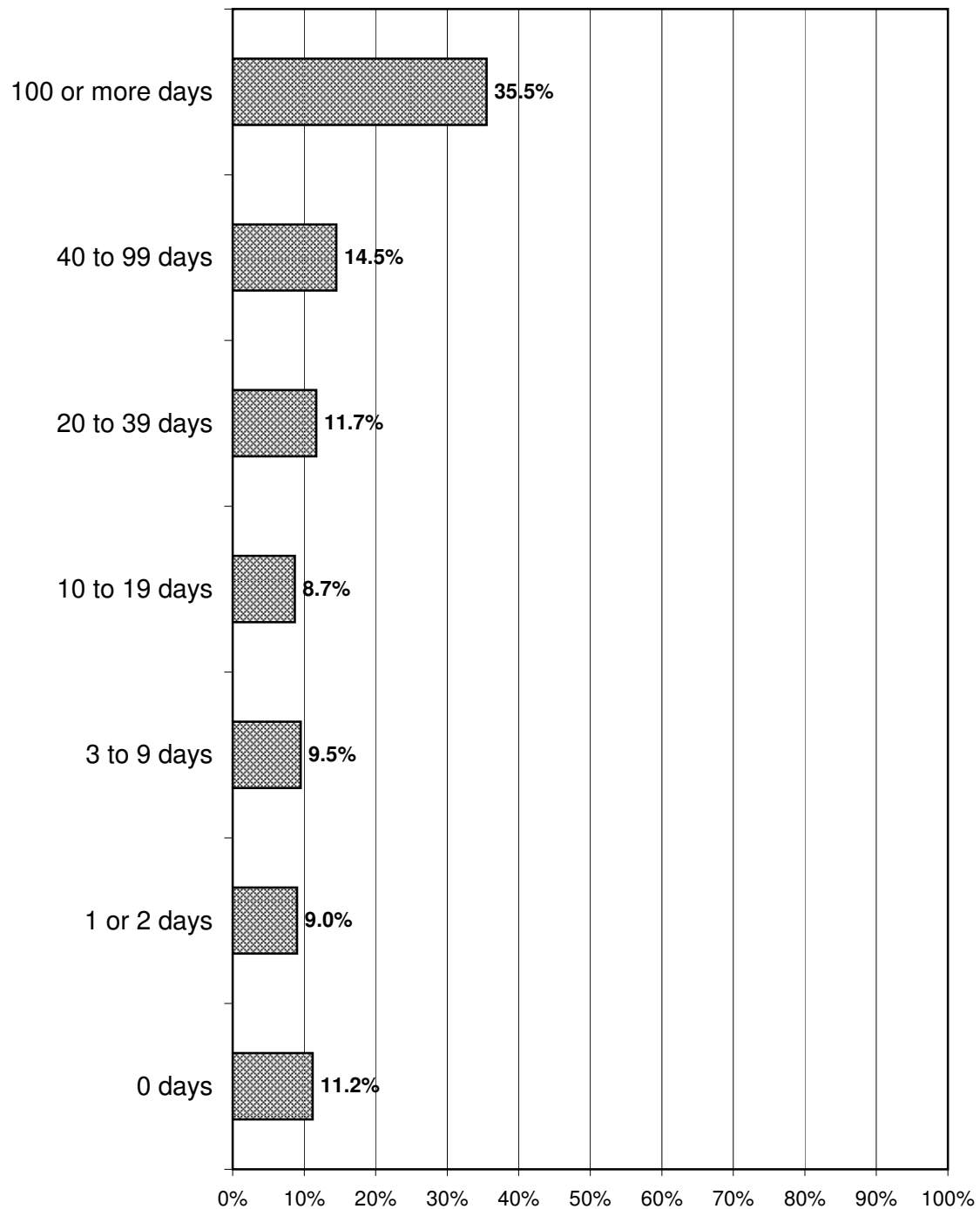




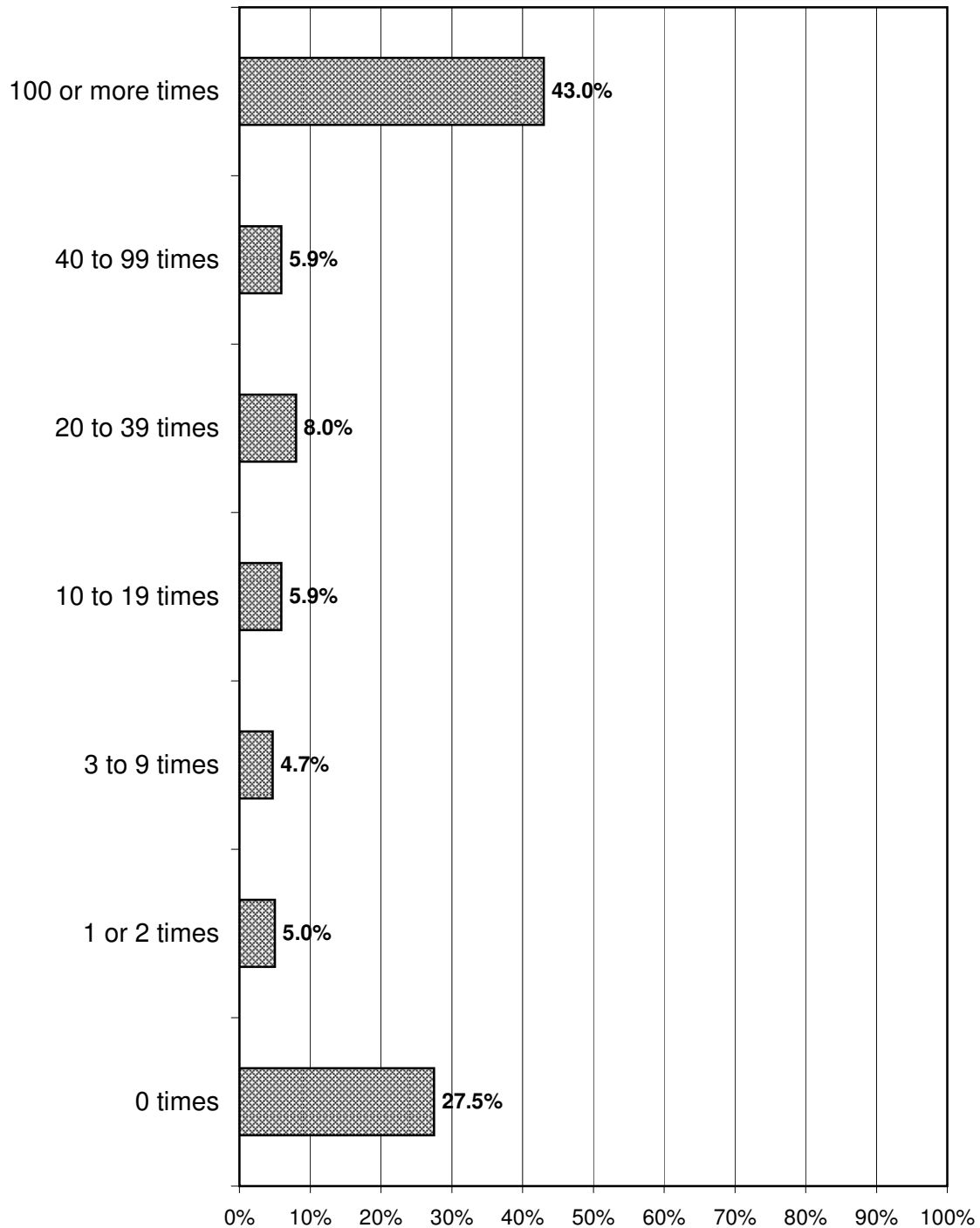
**Chart 9**  
**Q-33 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes on school property?**



**Chart 10**  
**Q-39 During your life, on how many days have you had at least one drink of alcohol?**

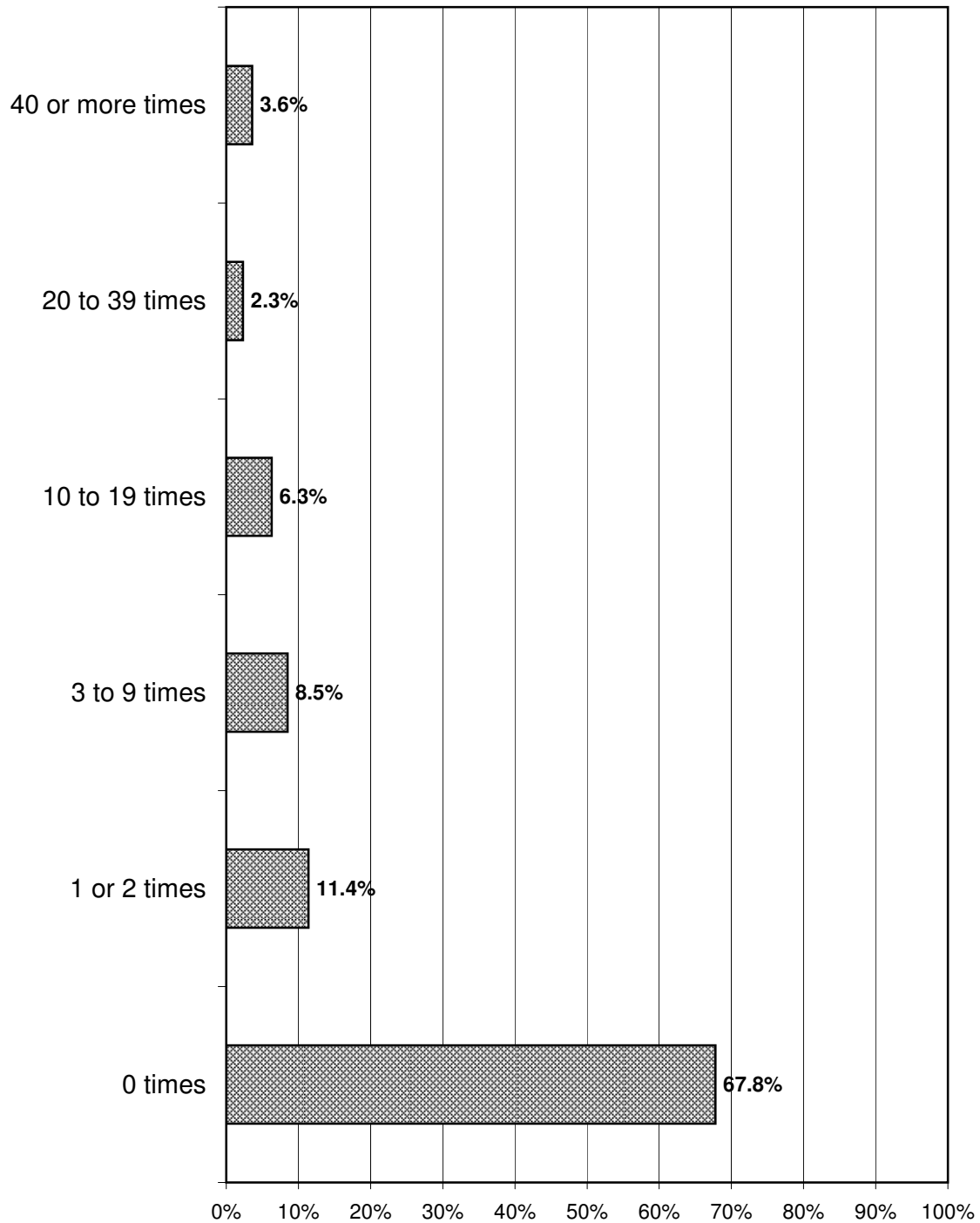


**Chart 11**  
**Q-45 During your life, how many times have you used marijuana?**



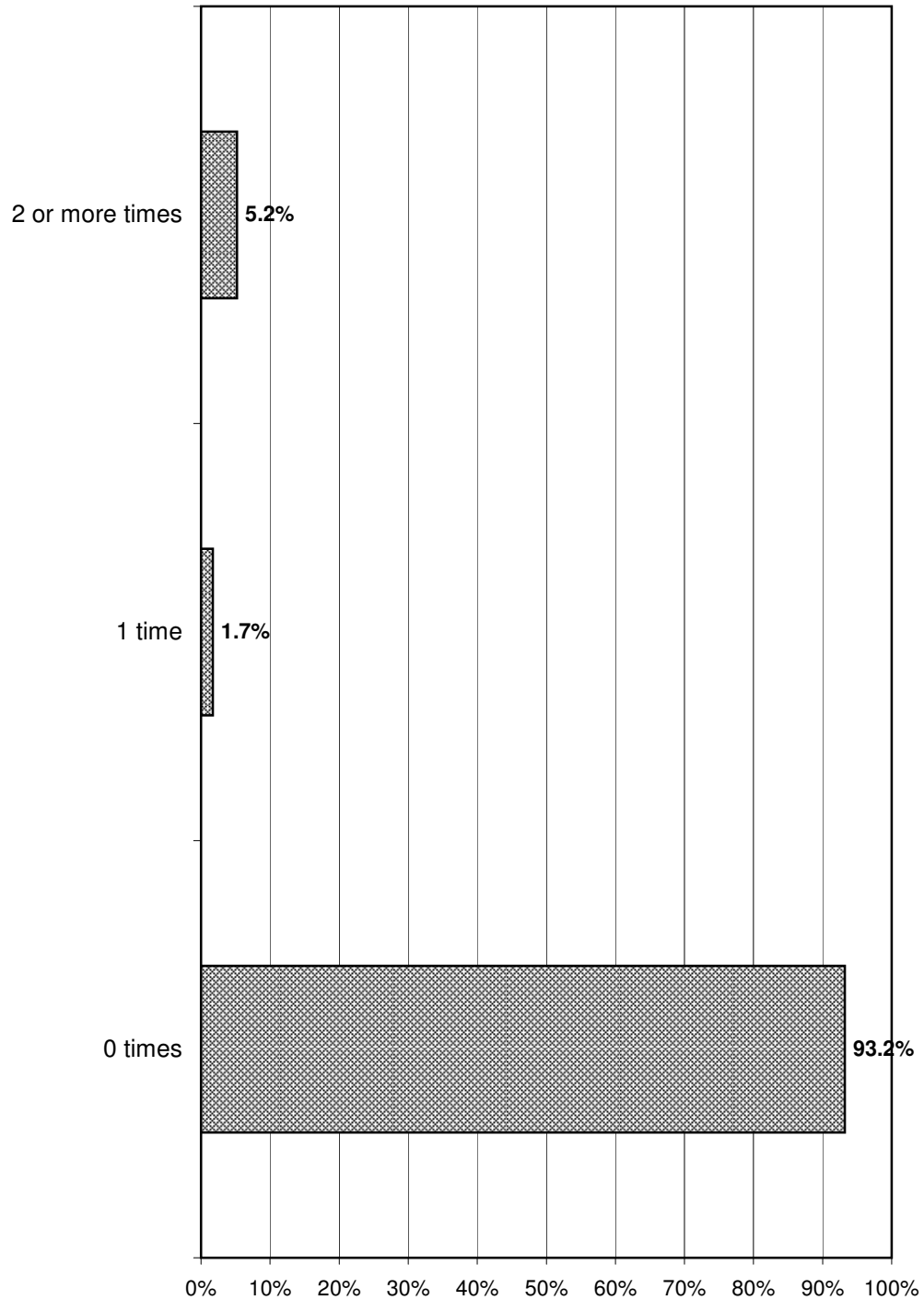
**Chart 12**

**Q-51 During your life, how many times have you sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high?**

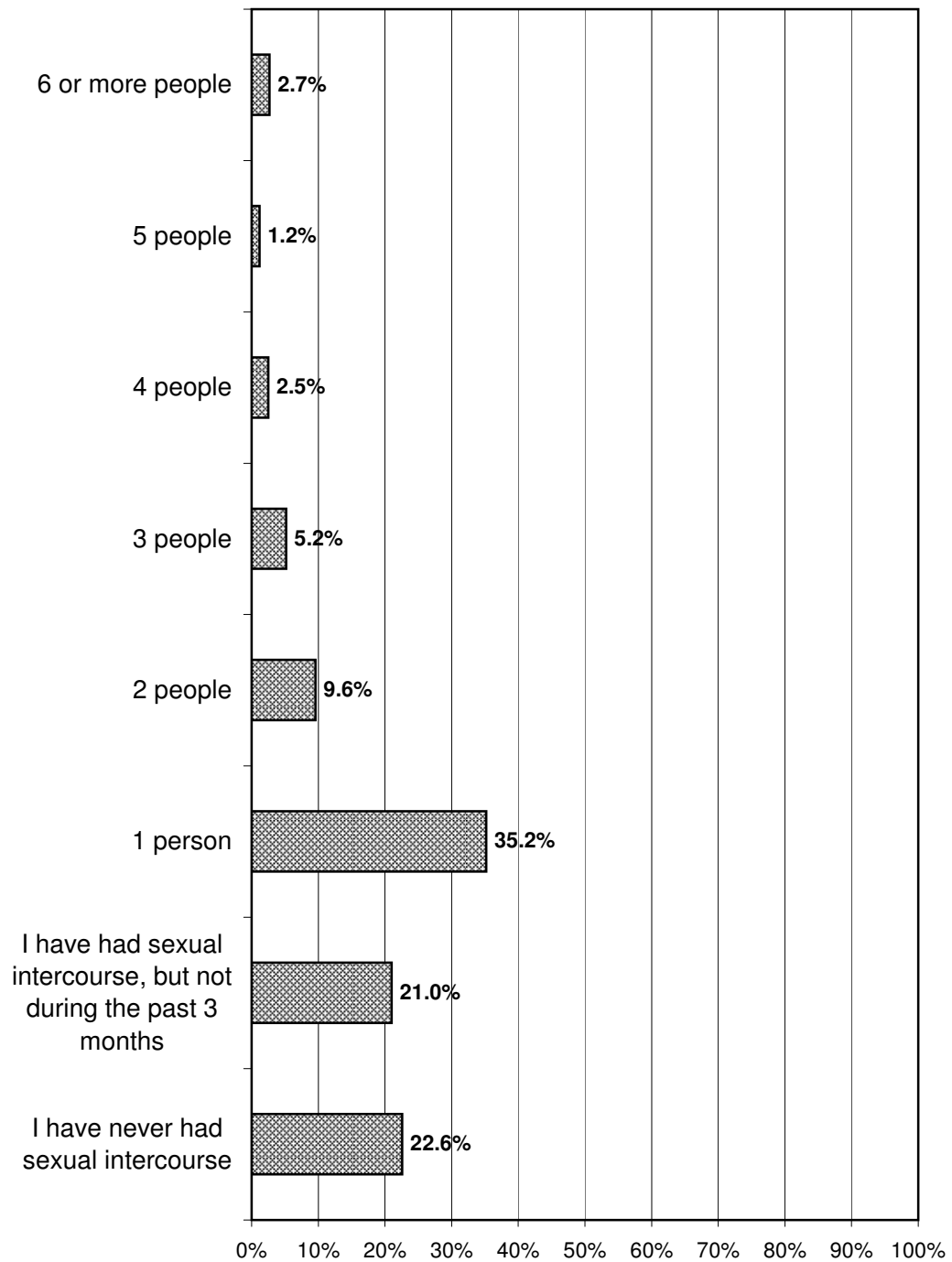


**Chart 13**

**Q-56 During your life, how many times have you used a needle to inject any illegal drug into your body?**

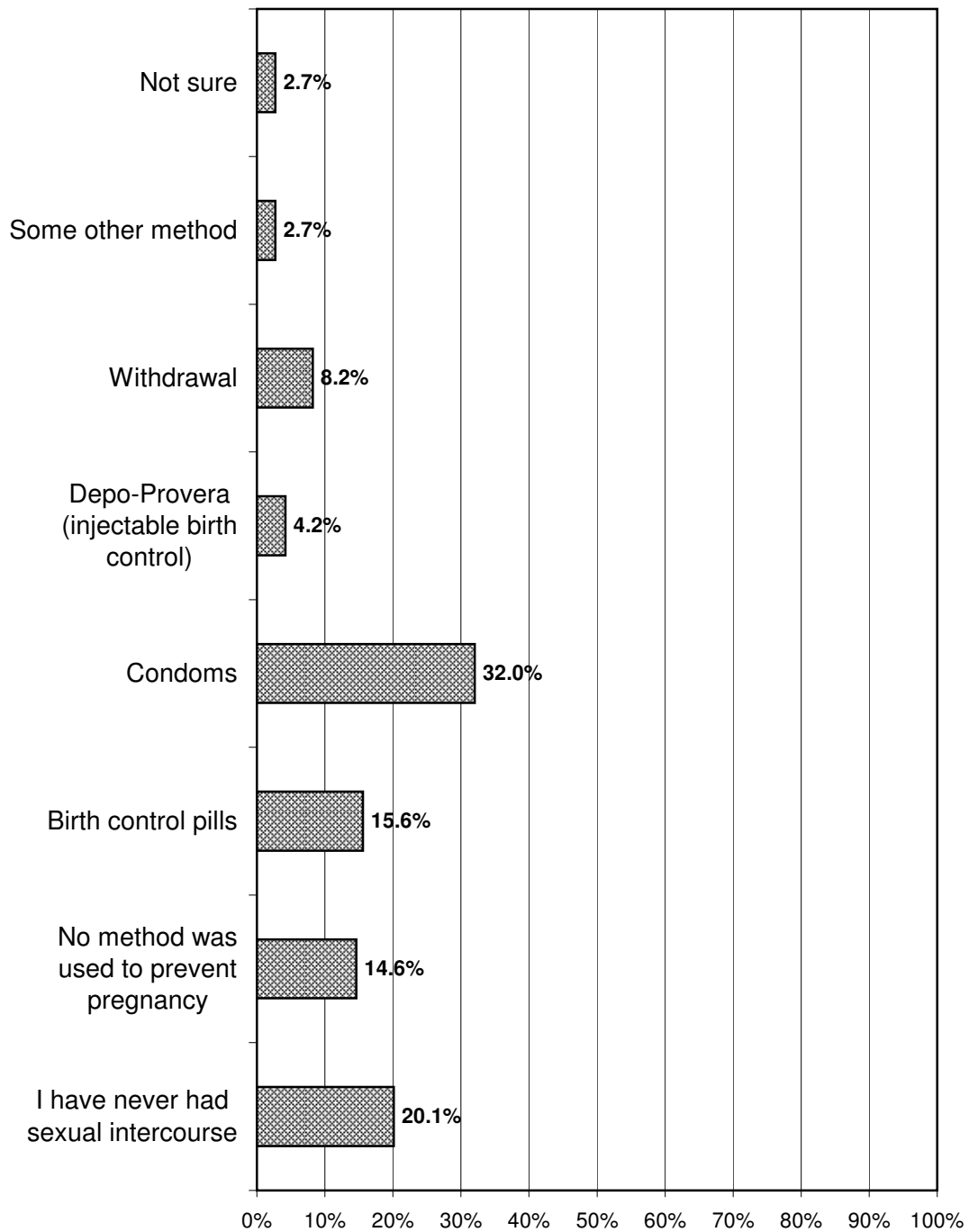


**Chart 14**  
**Q-61 During the past three months, with how many people**  
**did you have sexual intercourse?**

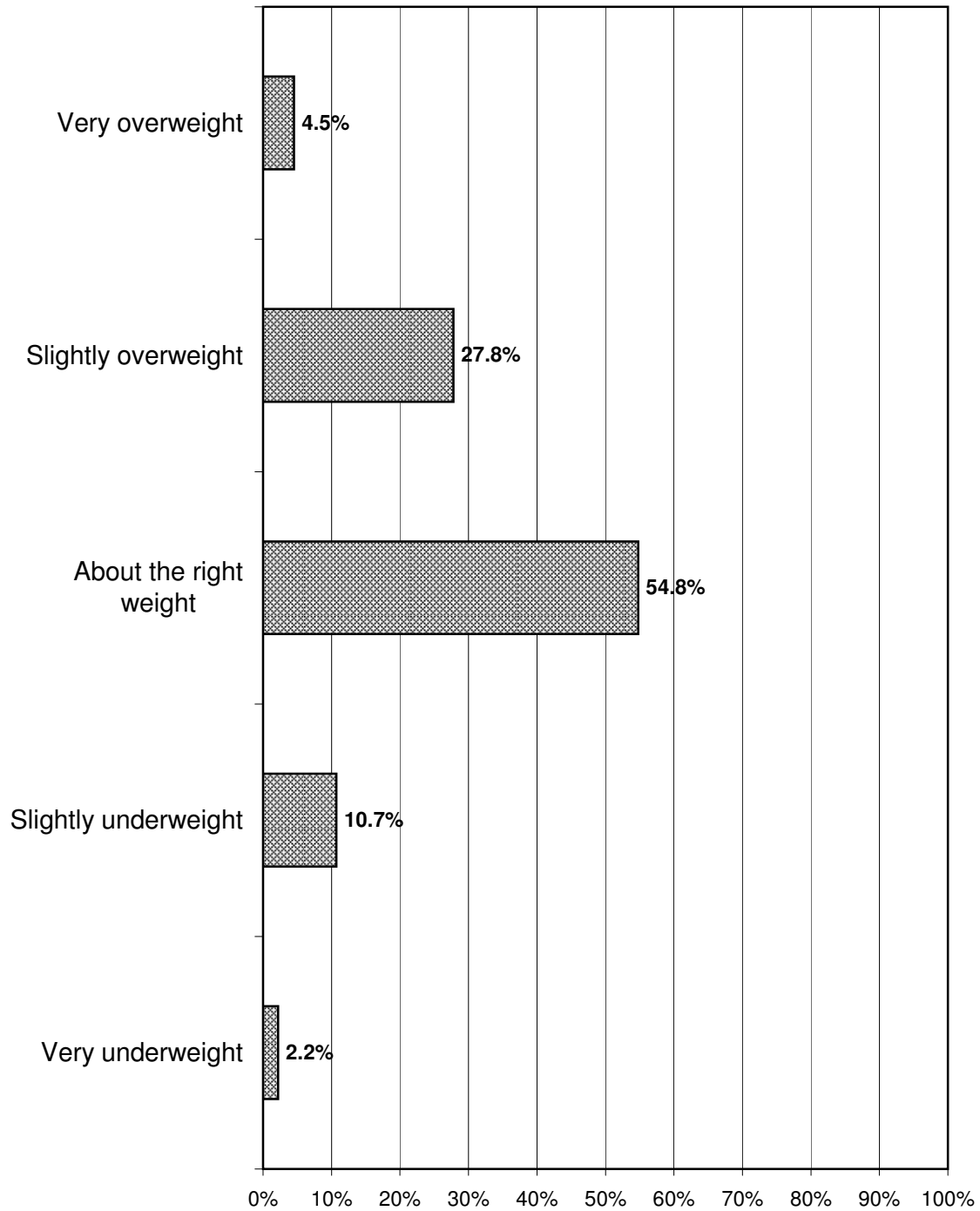


**Chart 15**

**Q-64 The last time you had sexual intercourse, what one method did you or your partner use to prevent pregnancy?**



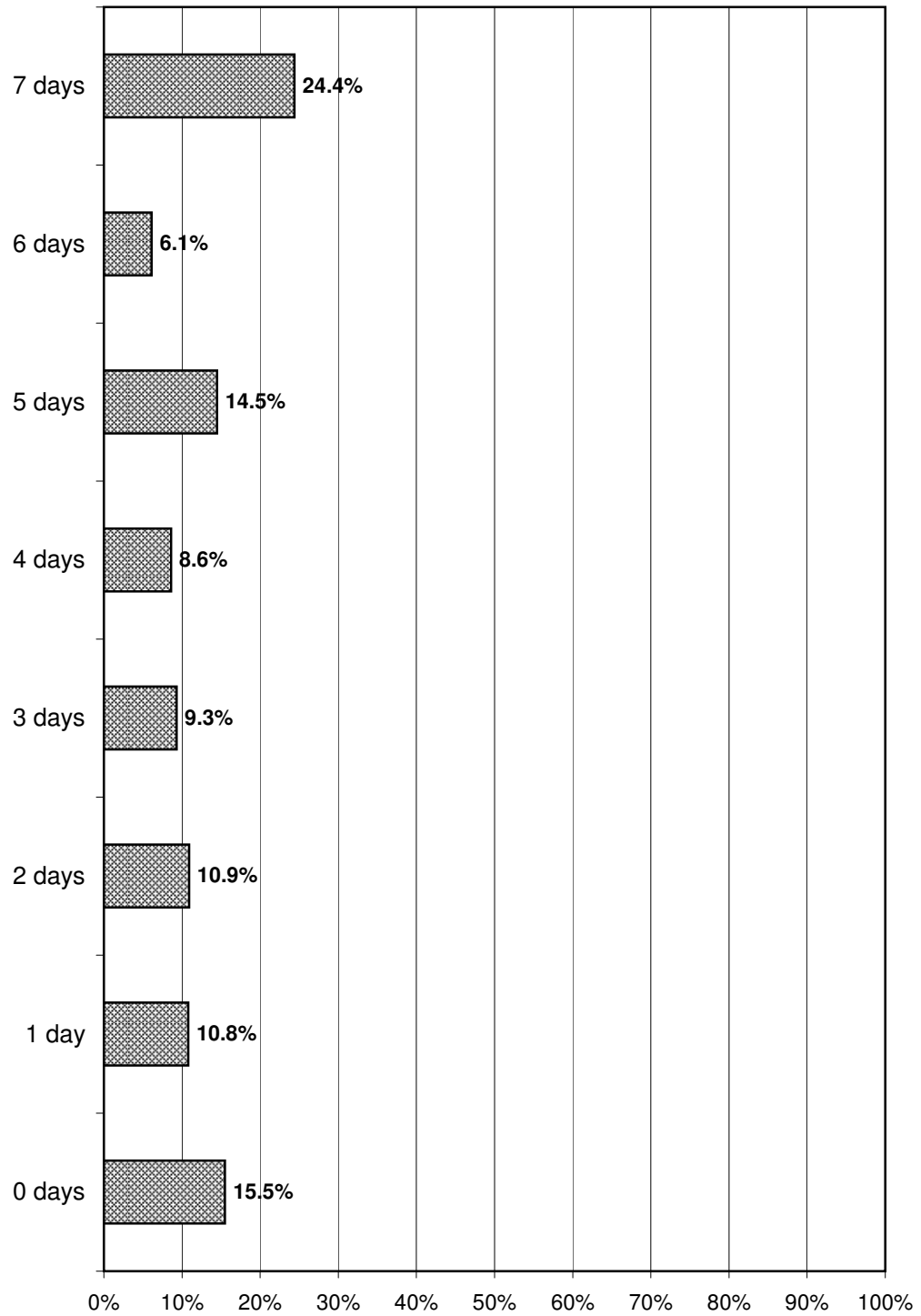
**Chart 16**  
**Q-65 How do you describe your weight?**





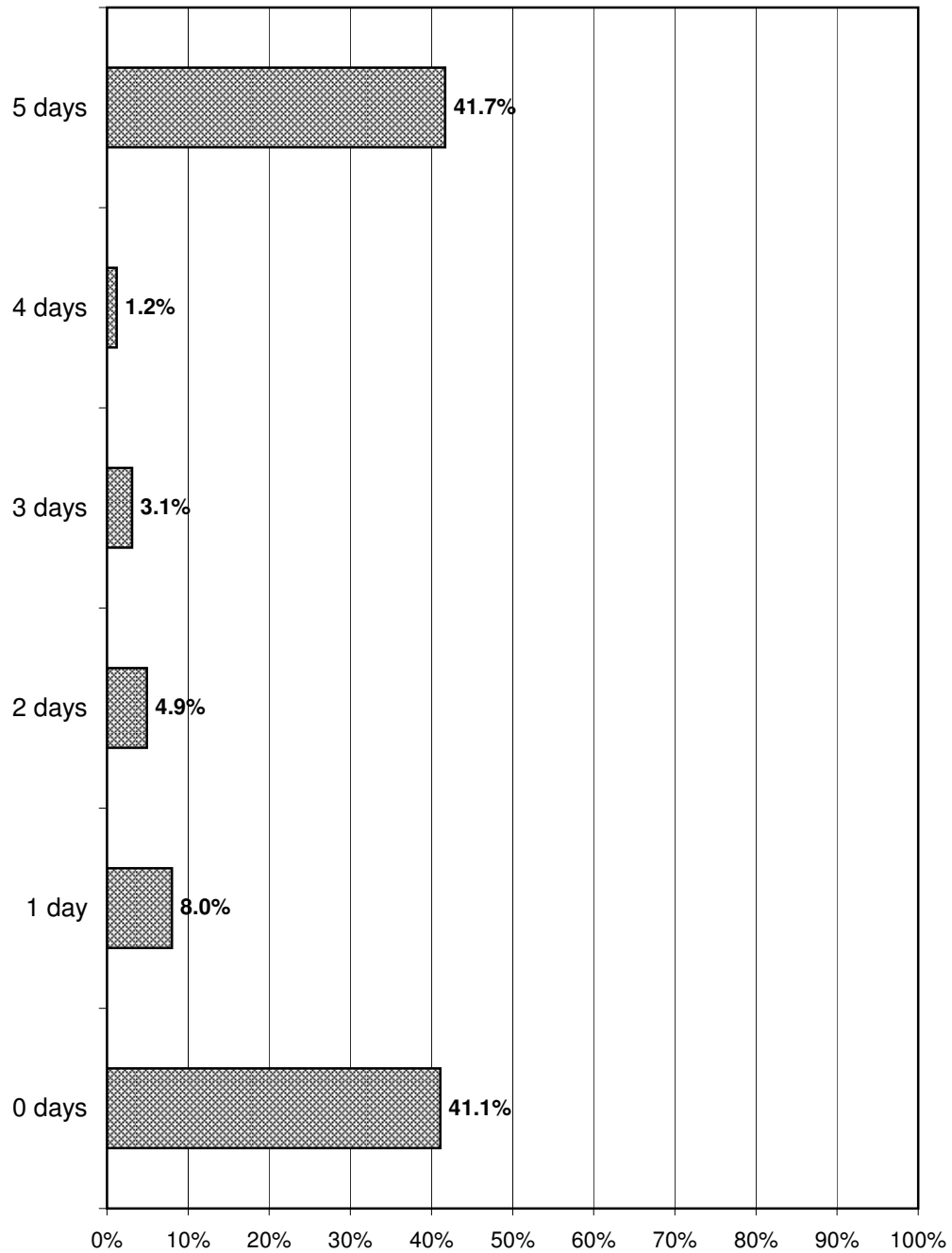
**Chart 17**

**Q-80 During the past 7 days, on how many days were you physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day?**



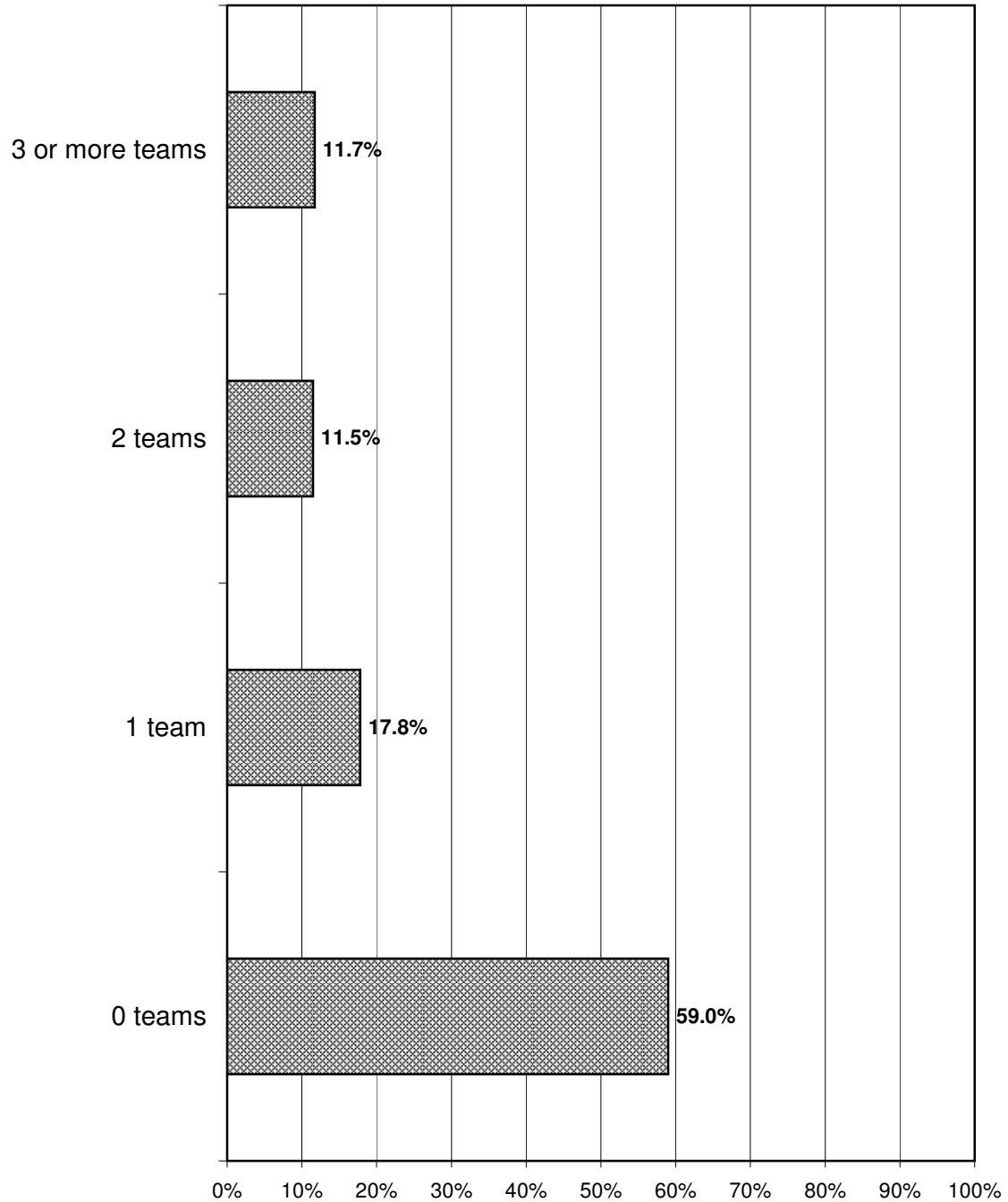
**Chart 18**

**Q-83 In an average week when you are in school, on how many days do you go to physical education (PE) classes?**

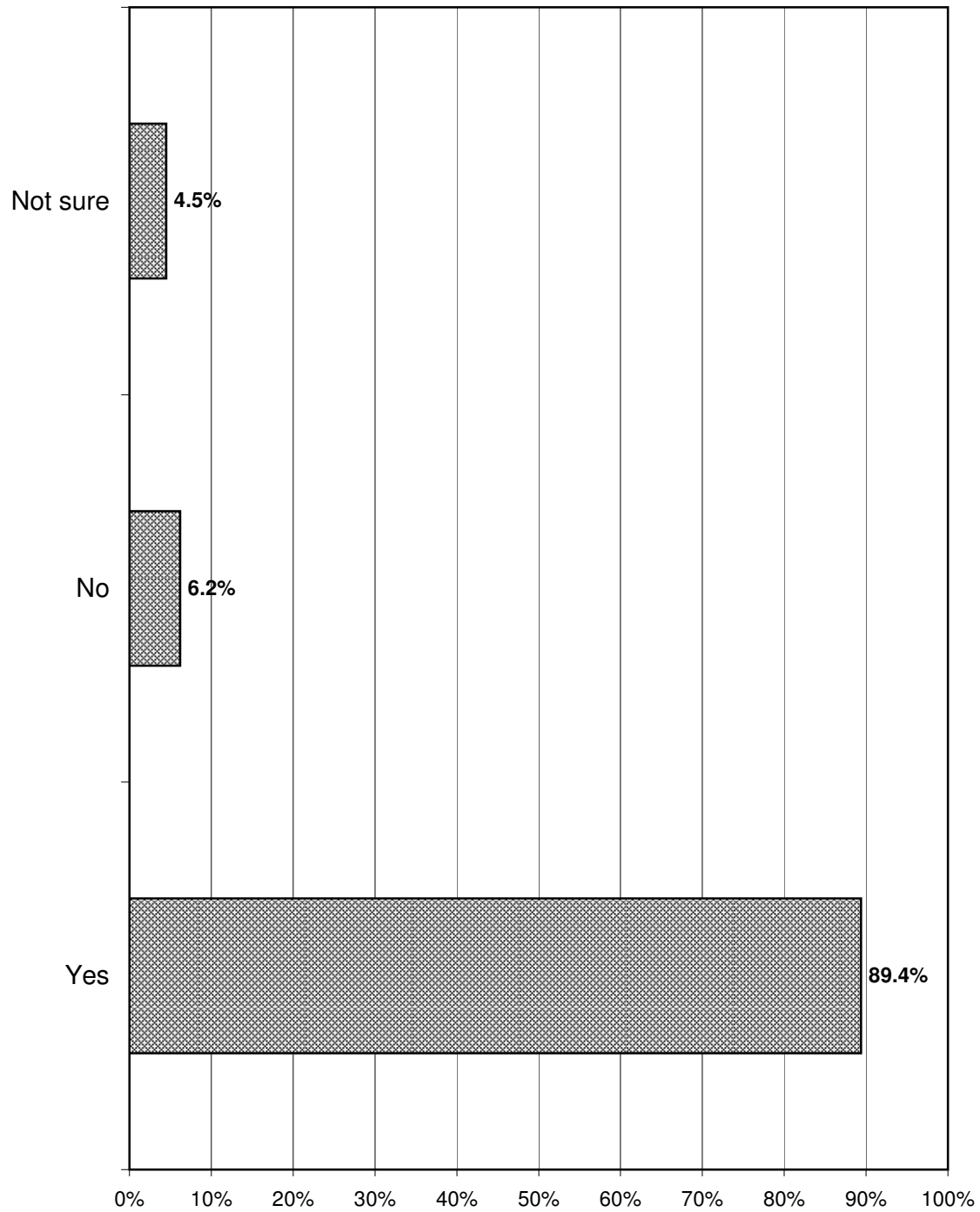


**Chart 19**

**Q-84 During the past 12 months, on how many sports teams did you play? (Include any teams run by your school or community groups.)**



**Chart 20**  
**Q-85 Have you ever been taught about AIDS or HIV infection**  
**in school?**



Montana Office of Public Instruction

Montana Board of Crime Control

Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services

Indian Health Service

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana

Montana Department of Transportation  
Traffic & Safety Bureau

Division of Adolescent and School Health  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



**Linda McCulloch, Superintendent**

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